

Syrian Jews stage pro-Assad march through Damascus

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian Jews, carrying loyalty banners in Hebrew, English and Arabic, marched through Damascus on Friday to back President Hafez Al Assad, up for reelection.

It was the second pro-Assad rally in as many days by the capital's Jewish community, chiefly market traders and craftsmen.

Syrians have joined hundreds of large and small rallies day and night throughout the Arab state since Mr. Assad was nominated 12 days ago for a fourth seven-year term.

He is the only candidate in yes-or-no ballot on Dec. 2. A 2,000-strong column of Jews voiced praise for Mr. Assad as a great national leader.

The marchers, led by Ibrahim Hamra, chief of the Jewish community and grand rabbi, and members of the Jewish Council in Damascus hailed Mr. Assad's achievements by shouting slogans in Arabic with Damascene accents.

Over 400 children from the Jewish "Maymoun" school carried pictures of Mr. Assad and coloured balloons and called out: "With our souls and blood we redeem these Hafez."

There are 3,000 Jews in Damascus, 850 in the northern city of Aleppo and some 150 in the northeastern city of Kamehshli on the Iraqi border. Damascus has 21 small synagogues.

Hundred of Damascus Jews demonstrated Wednesday night in support of Mr. Assad's reelection.

A noisy procession of at least 100 honking cars plastered with flags, posters and pictures of the president crawled down the old city's narrow Medhat Pasha Street to the Bab Sharki (Eastern Gate) in mid-evening.

Each car was jammed with people, including women, children and old people.

Israel often complains that Syria's Jews are prevented from emigrating and says most would leave if they could. But Eli Khouri, one of Wednesday's demonstrators, asked whether he would go, said: "No, no. Maybe somebody but I don't know."

He said Syrian Jews were able to travel abroad, but like other Syrians, forbidden to visit Israel. The demonstrators on Friday marched through Old Damascus from the Jewish Al Ameen district in the eastern sector to other areas populated with Christian and Muslim communities.

People there joined the demonstrators, bringing the number of marchers to over 4,000. They were festooned with rice and flowers thrown by wellwishers from balconies.

Chief Rabbi Hamra shouted with other demonstrators: "Hafez Assad is the symbol of national unity."

He told reporters Syria's Jews had benefited from many accomplishments during Mr. Assad's rule.

"The Jewish community will say yes to President Assad on Dec. 2."

"Whatever we do for President Assad is not enough. Today is Friday and it is a day to prepare for the holy day (Sabbath) but we went ahead with the rally to express our gratitude to the president who gave us a lot," Rabbi Hamra said.

Lawyer Shehadi Al Kouri said: "President Assad gave us a lot and lifted all restrictions which were imposed on us and made us equal with all other citizens."

"We are treated exactly like all Syrians. Assad has strengthened our belonging to the nation because we are Jewish Arabs and we are proud that we are Arabs and Jewish Syrians."

During the three-hour demonstration, the Jewish marchers shouted slogans like: "The Jewish district is our district. Hafez Assad is our leader. Judaism is great."

"The Jewish youth support peace. Support the hero of peace and the hero of Golan (Heights)."

One English banner said: "All love and respect to the great President Hafez Al Assad (from) the Jewish community in Syria."

Banners in Hebrew said: "With one voice, one heart we say yes to President Hafez Al Assad" and "Love and honour to the great leader Hafez Al Assad."

Antoin Bazon, a principal of the Maymoun School, said his school has kindergarten, elementary and preparatory sections and is demanding a high school section. It teaches the same curriculum as state schools, plus two hours a week on the Jewish religious texts.

King: Israeli leaders fear peace

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continue forward guarded by all. The people will be the judge. It has been noted in the last three to four months that in the political map of Jordan there is a change. There is a distancing from radicalism and a return to reason. How do you explain that?

At Democratic practice on its own is one of the reasons that led to such results. This, by the way, is not new to us. We have been through this in the fifties but certain circumstances did not allow continuation. Then there was occupation. The people, any people, know their responsibility. They contribute and build.

Q: According to your letter of appointment to the prime minister, alleviating economic hardship on the people will be a priority. What is the exact economic situation?

A: Within our means we will have to deal with the situation. This is not only the responsibility of the government but also of all people. For regard other economic problems we might need support from many in this world and especially from our Arab brothers. Israel is being supported continually while we have suffered from all what befall Palestine. It all reflects on us, especially the return of 300,000 people to Jordan so far. Once more, those who follow Jordan and its circumstances, its responsibilities and obligations and the challenges we face should perhaps change their mind.

Q: You know that MBC broadcast to the Gulf states. Would you like to say a word for Jordanians abroad?

A: I am very proud of our brothers and family and of their achievements. I hope they continue to be good ambassadors for Jordan abroad. They have all our love, appreciation and pride.

Q: The National Bloc will get the votes of the independent Islamists which is a coalition of two groups of three deputies each and will thus defeat the Constitution Bloc deputy in the first round, said one insider.

"During the second round the 17-member Constitution Bloc will support the Brotherhood candidate, the Democratic Bloc will abstain from voting and Dr. Arabiat will be re-elected," he predicted.

The split-up of votes is expected to transcend ideological lines and give way to personal rivalries and political vendettas which might give way to a lot of abstentions during the second round of the voting.

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Arabiya tipped for reelection

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because of the alliance drawn between the Brotherhood Bloc and the Constitution Bloc against the government of Taher Masihi who resigned two weeks ago. The two blocs had signed a petition in mid-October calling on Mr. Masihi to resign.

While the Brotherhood Bloc as well as the Democratic Bloc have popular support as political groupings, the National and Constitution blocs are both coalitions of independent liberal, conservative and right-wing political figures.

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Barzani

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current approved legislation this week allowing anyone to buy land in Kirkuk. Previously it was reserved for Iraqis of Arab origin and the move was seen as a concession to the Kurds.

But it also follows weeks of renewed tension between the Kurds and the Iraqi army, and the slaughter of 60 army prisoners by the Kurds at the town of Sulaimaniyah in October.

Kurdish leaders say they are slowly being starved of food, fuel and supplies to twist their arms to sign the autonomy agreement which has been under discussion since May.

They also accused Baghdad of preparing an assault on the key rebel-held town of Erbil and of sending 18,000 troops backed by artillery and tanks to the region.

The Iraqi government has not replied to the charges.

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

(Continued from page 1)

Kuwait City twinned with Florence

ROME (R) — The beautiful renaissance city of Florence got an unusual partner on Wednesday when it was twinned with war-shattered Kuwait City. "From today Florence and Kuwait City are twinned," said Kuwait's minister of state for municipal affairs, Ibrahim Majed Al Shaheen, as he passed through Rome's Fiumicino airport. "The decision results from the solidarity shown by Florence towards our capital at the time of the Iraqi invasion," Mr. Shaheen added before heading to Florence for the official twinning ceremony. Mr. Shaheen said his country still had a lot of rebuilding to do following the Iraqi occupation but struck an optimistic note. "There are still many open wounds, but we have already closed the largest by extinguishing the oil-well fires," he said, alluding to fires started in the war.

Egypt has 600 political prisoners

CAIRO (R) — Interior Minister Mohammad Abdul Halim Musa has said Egypt was holding 600 political prisoners and denied allegations many were being tortured. Mr. Musa said in an interview published Thursday by Al Gomhuria newspaper the detainees included 77 people accused of illegally distributing pamphlets attacking the Middle East peace talks which opened in Madrid last month. The London-based human rights group Amnesty International said earlier this month prisoners were routinely tortured in Egypt and accused it of brutal abuses under the emergency law introduced after Muslim zealots assassinated President Anwar Sadat in October 1981. But Mr. Musa, who assumed his post in January 1990, denied the charge. "Who said we practice torture?... I cannot do something like that... there is a misunderstanding in these reports," he said. A large number of those held are members of Muslim militant groups advocating the use of force to topple the government, or individuals who tried to enter the country from Jordan, Libya and Sudan to carry out sabotage during the Gulf crisis or smuggle money and drugs," Mr. Musa added. In an apparent reference to Libya, he said fundamentalist groups had lost foreign financing after Egypt improved ties with its neighbour. "There is also no financing from Tehran," he said. Egypt and Iran do not have full diplomatic ties and have been bitter foes since the 1979 Islamic revolution in Tehran. Cairo has repeatedly accused Iran of financing extremist groups.

N. Africa remains source of emigres to France

PARIS (R) — Immigration to France rose about 10 per cent last year with Arab North Africa still the main source of new arrivals, the French Social Affairs and Integration Ministry said Wednesday. "About 40 per cent of the approximately 100,000 people who legally settled in France in 1990 were from Algeria and Morocco," said Gerard Moreau, head of the ministry's population and migration department. Mr. Moreau said that despite continuing immigration, the number of foreigners in France remained stable at about 3.6 million because many foreigners had become French nationals while others had left the country. Immigration, especially from North Africa, is probably France's most explosive political issue, having fuelled the rise in the past decade of right-wing Jean-Marie Le Pen who wants to stop new arrivals and send many Third World immigrants home. Mr. Moreau gave the figures at a news conference as a new opinion poll showed 49 per cent of French people believed the country's more than four million Muslims would never be able to integrate into French society. But the poll, published in the Catholic weekly La Vie, said 40 per cent of the French thought Muslims, like other immigrants before them, would ultimately blend into French society.

Bangladesh vows support for Palestinians

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has said she hopes the Middle East peace talks will lead to a Palestinian state. "Prospects for a breakthrough in the long outstanding Middle East problems, of which the core issue is Palestine, are now brighter than ever before," she said in a statement on Thursday night marking the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people. She reaffirmed Bangladesh's support for Palestinian demands for an independent homeland and an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab lands. Ms. Khaleda said she hoped the momentum of the peace conference in Madrid would be maintained "until it leads to a just, comprehensive and durable settlement of the Palestinian issues."

Saudis behead Pakistani for drug trafficking

NICOSIA (R) — A Pakistani drug smuggler was publicly beheaded in Saudi Arabia Friday, the Saudi Press Agency reported. Qubool Mohammad Pirzadah Danibakhsh was beheaded by sword in the Red Sea port of Jeddah after Friday prayers. He had been found guilty of smuggling "a large amount of heroin" into the kingdom, the agency added. The agency, received in Cyprus, quoted the Interior Ministry as saying that anyone involved in drug-related crimes in Saudi Arabia would face execution. In June, 16 people, including two Pakistanis, were executed for drug trafficking. The last reported beheading in the kingdom, which observes Islamic Sharia law, was in July when two Saudis were publicly executed after being found guilty of murder.

Turkey returns stolen painting to Ireland

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey returned a stolen 17th century painting to Ireland Friday and urged other countries to hand back stolen Turkish works of art. Dutch master Gabriel Metsu's "A Woman Reading a Letter" was found last year in Istanbul, four years after it was snatched from an Irish gallery. Culture Minister Filiz Saglar handed the painting to Ireland's ambassador to Rome, Christopher Fogarty, at a ceremony in Istanbul's Painting and Sculpture Museum. The picture was stolen in 1986 from Sir Alfred Bell's collection at Lord Dunsany's estate in County Meath, Ireland, and was recovered by police in an Istanbul apartment in February 1990. "We expect his goodwill to be returned. We ask the world that... cultural properties should no longer be kept in storage in museums abroad," Mr. Saglar said. Turkey is leading a diplomatic campaign to recover priceless antiques smuggled from Turkey and now held by major western museums.

Sudanese leader grants amnesty to rebels

Gen. Bashir made the offer while addressing a public rally in the town of Damazin on the Ethiopian border, it said.

It quoted Gen. Bashir as saying the amnesty, which runs from Thursday, was the rebels' last chance to come home and take part in the development and rehabilitation of the country.

It gave no details of the terms of the amnesty and did not say how it would be organised.

Gen. Bashir, who took power in a military coup in 1989, accused the SPLA of being a racist movement bent on secession and had vowed to crush it completely by the end of the year.

The SPLA has been fighting the Sudanese army in southern Sudan since 1983. Military analysts say there is little chance either side can win the low-level bush war.

The main SPLA faction, under Colonel John Garang, advocates a united secular Sudan while a group led by Riak Machar and Lam Akol favours separating the predominantly African, animist and Christian south from the Muslim and Arab north.

The governor of southern Sudan's Equatoria state was quoted on Friday as saying 201 SPLA soldiers had surrendered to government troops in the town of Turkeka, 75 kilometres north of Juba, the main town in the south.

U.N. decision adds to Iraqi compensation bill

GENEVA (R) — Iraq may have to pay over \$1.5 billion extra compensation to migrant workers who fled Kuwait and Iraq during the Gulf crisis, delegates to a special United Nations compensation commission said Wednesday.

But they said that some poorer nations seeking the increase had tried to scale back compensation to other claimants — including payments of up to \$15,000 to Westerners held in Iraq as deterrent against attack.

Delegates to the Geneva-based compensation commission said it agreed Tuesday to increase fixed payments to certain "departees" from a basic \$2,500 to \$4,000.

Those who choose to claim the higher figure would lose any right to claim for additional specific losses. Those claiming \$2,500 could still make other claims.

Delegates said most of an estimated two million departees — including over 600,000 from Egypt alone — were likely to choose the higher payment, adding over \$1.5 billion to Iraq's already huge compensation bill.

Payment of compensation by Iraq is still hypothetical since Baghdad has refused to make the U.N.-sanctioned oil sales which would pay for it.

"We carry on without our work, although it does get unrealistic at times," one European delegate said.

Delegates said a proposal to increase the payments to \$5,000 was made by China and Ecuador, two of the 15 Security Council members represented on the commission. This was reduced to \$4,000 as a compromise.

The proposal was backed by other poor nations such as Pakistan and Egypt, whose nationals might be unable to provide documentary proof of how much they lost when they fled

Cooperation needed to address homeless problem, officials say

AMMAN (J.T.) — The problem of homelessness in Jordan came under scrutiny by a symposium organized by the National Society for the Protection of the Homeless (NSPH) Thursday in cooperation with the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS).

GUVS Executive President Abdullah Al Khatib painted a gloomy picture of the situation when he said that the country has a large number of homeless people, beggars and vagabonds, but cannot determine their numbers and has no effective plans to deal with the situation.

Dr. Khatib said that Jordan needs sound scientific measures to deal with this problem, which is affecting the very fabric of the Jordanian society.

Dr. Khatib attributed the emergence of the homelessness phenomenon to the socio-economic changes in the Kingdom which led to many cases of loose social ties. GUVS, he said, has been working to deal with questions related to poverty and homelessness.

One way of dealing with the problem was through direct advice to the families and relatives and the homeless people. Another way to deal with the problem is through opening special institutions that offer care and shelter to homeless people.

He said that GUVS was contributing to the solution of this

problem to prevent juvenile delinquency and to open the way for the young to have new opportunities in life.

The meetings were opened by Minister of Social Development Amin Mashagbeh, who said that no laws or penalties can be effective in dealing with the homeless, beggars or the unemployed unless proper effective socio economic and educational systems cooperate to deal with the situation.

The Ministry of Social Development has been cooperating with GUVS in dealing with this problem, the minister noted. So far, the ministry has entrusted 60 homeless people to the care of GUVS and offered GUVS JD 50,000 annually to take charge of this task.

At the same time, the ministry, in cooperation with the police, has been collecting beggars and homeless people from the streets in daily campaigns to conduct studies on their conditions and provide them with the appropriate care, Dr. Mashagbeh said.

NSPH President Dr. Sari Nasser addressed the meeting by echoing Dr. Khatib's views about the need of collective measures to deal with the problem. He said that Jordan cannot deal with this issue unless various segments of society cooperate with the state in implementing plans that would end the phenomenon on streets of Jordan.



His Majesty King Hussein visits Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker to give him additional Royal directives (Petra photo)

King visits prime minister, outlines his expectations

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein paid a visit to Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker at his office and provided him with Royal directives over a number of local, pan-Arab and international questions. The King also heard from the prime minister outline the new government's steps to put into force the Royal directives contained in a letter to the government at the domestic and external fronts.

Following the visit, it was announced that the King's letter to the government will be considered as its policy statement to Parliament.

A statement said that the Higher Council for the Interpretation

of the Constitution said that it has been decided that the King's letter sent to Sharif Zeid upon forming his government on Nov. 21 will be considered as the government statement for which a vote of confidence will be sought from Parliament in its new session opening Sunday.

In accordance with the articles of the Constitution, a new government should submit its statement within one month after being formed in order to win confidence from Parliament. But under the Constitution, the King's letter to the new government can be considered as a government policy statement should the government be formed when the Parliament is in recess.

Further tightening of blockade against Iraq indicates existence of 'blacklist', officials say

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian importers for foodstuff for consumption in the Kingdom as well as Iraq stand to suffer drastically from what appears to be a further tightening of the enforcement of the international sanctions against Iraq, according to shipping officials and businessmen.

Particularly affected by a new measure being enforced by the American-led naval fleet patrolling the Red Sea are bulk cargo carriers loaded with rice, sugar and flour, which are intercepted and subjected to "unreasonable" procedures and regulations, shipping officials and importers say.

The Shipping Agents Association (SAA) of Jordan is cautioning importers that their cargo "is subject to be refused (entry to Aqaba) according to this new implementation of the inspection rules."

The latest vessel to fall victim to the enforcers of the sanctions against Iraq was

M.V. Petra Slaveiko, a Bulgarian ship loaded with 9,500 metric tonnes of rice imported by a Jordanian firm. The ship was intercepted on Nov. 23 by the U.S. naval forces at the Tiran Straits on the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba and was refused entry to the port on grounds that cargo in the lower hold was not accessible to the inspectors.

The vessel was delayed for three days at sea during which its crew made access to its lower holds through ventilation pipes and the inspectors allowed it to proceed after a second inspection, according to SAA officials.

On-board inspection of vessels at sea — including access to lower holds full of bulk products — is described as an almost impossible task by shipping experts, who also pointed out that vessels would be deprived of one third of their full cargo capacity if they were to make room for accessibility for inspection.

Paradoxically, five other vessels loaded with similar cargo

— mostly sugar and rice — were allowed to proceed without hassle to Aqaba in the past two weeks. This has added further credence to an assertion by Jordanian importers that the U.S. fleet in the Red Sea is keeping a "black list" of Jordanian firms whom the enforcers suspect of importing goods for Iraq. Imports of the "blacklisted" companies are blocked while cargo consigned to "non-blacklisted" importers is allowed to proceed, according to the businessmen.

M.V. Calugareni, a Romanian vessel carrying 7,470 tonnes of rice for Iraq, was turned away from Aqaba on Nov. 10 despite its possession of a certificate from the U.N. Sanctions Committee that its cargo was approved by the panel under Security Council Resolution 687, which exempts foodstuff and medicine from the embargo on Iraq.

The vessel is now transferring part of its load to another ship at Port Suez and both carriers are expected to proceed to Aqaba together after

meeting the "lower hold accessibility demand" of the enforcers.

The net result of the delay is an additional cost, which will reflect on the consumer price for the product in the market, businessmen point out.

"There is a certain range of international price for commodities," noted one importer. "We try to work within that range, keeping limited profit margins, but additional shipping costs will not only erode our profits but will cause heavy losses," he said.

"The message we get from the interceptions and delays is simple: don't import anything for Iraq unless you want to lose or make the Iraqis pay high costs for their needs."

But the "message" may not be that simple, adds another importer who exclusively deals with the Jordanian market. "Imports for the local market are also incurring the additional cost and the net victim who will pay the extra cost and thus a higher price is the Jordanian consumer."

Officials alarmed by rising dropout rate in country

By Nur Sati

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Increasingly, Jordan's motorists are finding that stopping at a red light means being approached by children selling gum or other trinkets. The phenomenon, while not new, is indicative of the growing numbers of children who are dropping out of school.

Most of the children interviewed by the Jordan Times said they were forced to drop out of school to support their families, which are being hit by the weak economic conditions in the country.

Education officials, alarmed at the increasing dropout rate in the Kingdom, are conducting studies to determine the exact causes behind rising dropout rate.

According to statistics from the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), the dropout rate for schools in first grade is about 1.7 per cent. This figure increased to 3 per cent for students between the second and sixth grades. After the sixth grade, the dropout rate for students doubled to 6 per cent in the 1989-1990 academic year, according to HCST statistics.

At the twelfth level, the average dropout rate among literary art students is 36 per cent, 10 per cent higher than the one for science students.

Deir Alla Directorate was found to have the highest dropout rate, which stands at about 17.7 per cent in the ninth grade alone, officials said.

Dr. Victor Billeh, president of the National Centre for Educational Research and Development at the HCST, said that the figures do not tell the whole picture. There is no way to know how many students dropped out in the shuffle as they transferred from schools in one directorate to another, he said.

However slightly distorted the figures may be, "we still consider the dropout levels high," Dr. Billeh told the Jordan Times.

One possible reason for the high dropout rate could be the large number of small schools in Jordan, he said.

"There are 260 government schools in Jordan with less than 40 students. There are 844 schools with less than 130 students in each school and some 1,267 schools with less than 220 students," Dr. Billeh said.

In the distribution for the limited educational resources available in the country, small schools are sometimes overlooked, he said. "The smaller the schools, the less facilities it will have," Dr. Billeh said. "The kind of education that can be provided for is limited whereas if the school is bigger

with better facilities (libraries and labs) there will ultimately be a better educational atmosphere."

Echoing Dr. Billeh's views, the general director of the Education Department at the Ministry of Education, Dr. Zougan Obeidat, said, "the educational system is efficient, we would rarely find any dropouts."

He attributed the high dropout rates to discrepancies in the educational system. "It is an aspect of our failure in keeping all the students in our schools," Dr. Zougan said. "When the student drops out, it means there is something wrong in the system."

Another reason could be the lack of qualified teachers, officials maintain. But a more significant reason may be the social aspect.

"If parents find children failing their class consecutively, it might give them (parents) the incentive to force their children out of school," according to Dr. Zougan.

Some street children interviewed by the Jordan Times said that they are forced to work not because their grades might be poor, but because the family needs an income earner.

"I left school when I was six years old because my mother needed us (children) to work

so that we could eat. It has been three years since I started selling chewing gum," said a nine-year-old boy, who added that he enjoyed street life and being out of school.

The problem poses an ironic problem for government officials trying to increase the country's literacy rate. While older adults are increasingly encouraged to enroll in adult school to learn how to read and write, certain conditions continue to force children to go without a formal education.

In the meantime, officials continue to research the problem, hoping to pinpoint the reason for the high dropout rate.

The National Centre for Educational Research and Development is still in the process of completing its study, which looks in-depth into the reasons for the high dropout rates. "We will also look at the rates with respect to locations — comparing the rates of the urban and rural setting," Dr. Billeh said.

The study will also take into consideration the mobility of the population. "Only once we have analysed and found indicators and pinpointed the dimension of the problem can we look into the causes for such a phenomenon and seek measures," Dr. Billeh said.

CAEU to review report, assess financial state

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the 54th session of the Council of Arab Economic Unity's (CAEU), Ministerial Council due to convene in Cairo on Dec. 1.

Participants will discuss the executive steps to move the Council's headquarters to Cairo in implementation of a resolution passed by the 10th extraordinary session, and the financial and administrative situations of the Council.

The CAEU secretary general Hassan Ibrahim, left Amman for Cairo to head the session and the meeting of the deputy representatives, which will start Sunday.

In a departure statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Ibrahim said participants will discuss the secretary general's annual report on the most important Arab and international factors which affected the performance of Arab economies. They will also discuss the international economic conditions and the external debt of the developing countries, which is at the forefront of the problems plaguing these countries.

The annual economic report also talks about problems facing Arab economies, which have been struggling to cope with a new situation, placing the development policies and strategies at a difficult junction.

Europarlamentarians arrive in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation representing the Socialist group at the European Parliament, headed by Claude Cheysson, Friday arrived in Amman from the occupied West Bank on a three day visit to Jordan for talks with Jordanian officials on issues of mutual interest. In an arrival statement, Mr. Cheysson expressed his happiness for visiting Jordan, saying that it was not his first visit to the Kingdom. He added that the group will discuss with Jordanian officials issues of common concern, including the peace process and scopes of cooperation in the parliamentary and economic fields.

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His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein on fodder processing and livestock wealth in the Arab World (Petra photo)

Conference calls on Arab countries to support Palestinians

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-day pan-Arab conference on fodder processing and boosting the livestock wealth of the Arab World ended in Amman with a call on Arab countries to extend financial and in-kind assistance to the Palestinian people to allow them to boost their agricultural production and enhance their resistance to the occupation.

The conference, which was held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein, called on Arab states to provide training to the Palestinians in fodder processing measures, help them set up laboratories for testing the quality of animal feed and to increase trade exchanges with the Arab lands occupied by Israel.

The delegates also voiced their support to the Iraqi people and called for an end of the food embargo on Iraq. They also called for providing the Iraqi people with the food and medicine and means of producing fodder and food production.

The conference voiced total support for the Libyan people in the face of current Western threats over the 1988 downing of a Pan-Am aircraft over Scotland, which was blamed on Libya.

The conference, which was organized by the Arab Federation for Food Industries (AFFI) in cooperation with the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO), was attended by representatives

of Arab universities, chambers of agriculture, industry and trade as well as the ministries of industry, supply and trade in the Arab World.

The recommendations included a call on Arab nations to give due attention to natural pasture lands and to stem the cutting of forest trees to protect the soil from erosion and ensure basic services to people involved in pasture lands.

The conference appealed to governments and money lending institutions and funds as well as investors to give attention to and encourage agricultural production. It also urged governments to lease state-owned lands to farmers for nominal fees to encourage food production.

The conference urged Arab

universities and research centres to give due attention to the production of fodder and on governments to create proper facilities to store strategic amounts of fodder, give due attention to the poultry industry and to finance the creation of silos.

The delegates urged the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) to speed up work on the production of calcium phosphate used in fodder processing and encouraged Arab investors to initiate joint ventures that would ensure sufficient fodder for the livestock wealth of the Arab World.

Prince Faisal, who presided over the final session, distributed awards to a number of prominent people who helped organize the conference in recognition of their efforts.

Youth congress ends; stresses understanding, friendship among young

By Serene Hakala
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath chaired the final session of the first International Youth Congress held at the Amman Baccalaureate School Thursday.

The congress, an event organized by the student body at the Baccalaureate School, extended invitations to students around the world in an effort to create better understanding and to promote peace and friendship among the students, especially following the disastrous results of the Gulf war on the region. The students thus decided that peace would be the main theme of the congress and adopted the motto of "Uniting a Divided World."

The congress, which lasted for six days, hosted a number of speakers including His Royal Highness Crown Prince

Hassan, Dr. Kamal Salibi, Dr. Farouk El Baz and the British ambassador to Jordan, Patrick Eyres.

In her address, Her Royal Highness thanked the participants and organizers for their efforts in making this event possible. She also expressed hope that topics discussed during the workshops have benefited and helped students to better understand problems facing the world.

Her Highness then presented the students with a collection of books featuring Jordan's achievements under the reign of His Majesty King Hussein.

Also speaking at the final session, Mr. Eyres, who did not speak on behalf of the European Community (EC), but rather as a European citizen, gave a speech about Europe's view on the Middle East peace process.

In his speech, Mr. Eyres highlighted the importance of the peace process carried in Europe, and that continent's keen desire to see a stable Middle East where justice and human rights prevail.

Mr. Eyres also spoke of economic, social and political ties between Europe and the Middle East. He said that his country and the European Community look for peace based on the "rule of law" and principles enshrined in the U.N. Charter, which does not accept the changing of frontiers by force and guarantees the right of self-determination and self-defence to all people.

Mr. Eyres added that the guiding principles for the current peace process, U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338, reflect the land for peace formula. He also recognized the right of every state to live within secure and recognised boundaries and

the right of Palestinians to self-determination.

Following his speech, the ambassador was bombarded with a barrage of what some thought were "hostile" questions. Students and attendees questioned the ambassador on what they believed to be a double standard in dealing with the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the 24-year-old Israeli occupation of Arab territories.

The ambassador insisted that there were main differences between the two occupations. Iraq, he said, invaded a sovereign nation while in the case of the occupied territories, it was a bit unclear because both sides were guilty of committing aggression.

The congress, which discussed a number of other issues such as education, health, and the environment, adopted a number of resolutions that will be announced in a few days.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King swears in ministers

AMMAN (Petra) — Three ministers who were abroad when the new government of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker was formed were sworn on Thursday before His Majesty King Hussein. The new ministers are Yanal Hikmat as minister of tourism and antiquities, Jawdat Al Shoul as minister of interior and Mahmoud Al Sharif as minister of information. Attending the swearing in ceremony were Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Chief of the Royal Court Adnan Abu Odeh and the King's Military Secretary His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad.

King receives message from Yemen

AMMAN (J.T.) — A special envoy from Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh left Amman Friday after delivering a message to His Majesty King Hussein from the Yemeni president. The envoy, Seif Sayel, who is also member of Yemen's Consultative Council, was received by the King at the Royal Court Thursday afternoon. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the message dealt with current political developments in the Arab region and Jordanian-Yemeni relations.

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MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS & HOUSING
GOVERNMENT TENDERS DIRECTORATE

Announcement for Central Tender No. (153/91)
Implementation of Digital IDR/DCME System (Turnkey Project)

The Government Tenders Directorate of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan announces the above mentioned tender for the implementation of IDR/DCME system at IntelSat Baqa Earth Station, in accordance with the conditions and specifications stated in the tendering documents, which makes use of low rate encoding and digital speech interpolation to enable deriving four terrestrial channels from one satellite bearer channel.

The Telecommunications Corporation of Jordan (TCC) will be the responsible organization for the implementation of this project. Interested tenderers, specialised in the field of telecommunications, are invited to purchase the tendering documents from:

Government Tenders Directorate
Ministry of Public Works and Housing
P.O.Box (1228)
Amman - Jordan
Tele: 21944
Fax (884759)

Starting on 30/11/1991, against a non-refundable price of JD 150.

Last date for purchasing tender documents shall be on 18/2/1992.

The tender, accompanied by a tender security, shall be delivered, by post or otherwise, to reach the Government Tenders Directorate not later than 13:30 noon on Saturday Feb. 23, 1992.

The tenders shall be opened in the presence of tenderers' representatives, who may choose to attend, at 14:00 p.m. on 23/2/1992.

Chairman Central Tender Committee
Eng. Basheer Al Jahbeer

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Depending on Bush's fortitude

THE Middle East back-stage diplomacy since the Madrid conference, hampered by James Baker's recent absence from Washington, has aroused speculation which is often misleading. Yet one thing is certain: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is determined to recover from the unquestionable political reverse that Israel suffered from the Palestinians at Madrid. He may lack charm and charisma but he has plenty of cunning and he still has strong cards even if they are not as strong as they were. He is a master of appearing reasonable while remaining intransigent. He will continue to say that everything can be discussed in Middle East peace talks as if this means that they can be negotiated, which it does not. His success at deception apparently includes Israeli voters, as opinion polls show that while a remarkable 74 per cent favour the exchange of territory for peace they are also swinging towards the Likud.

Shamir's lengthy visit to the United States was intended both to rally American Zionist forces after their recent set-back and restore the strained relations with the Bush administration. While it remains to be seen how far these two aims are compatible, he must see some trends as favourable. President Bush's previously unassailable position, based on his world statesmanship, is threatened by alarming domestic difficulties. For the first time the possibility that he might be defeated by a Democrat in 1992 is taken seriously and the president is showing signs of loss of nerve. Following the shattering reverse in the Pennsylvania by-election, Republican members of Congress are more than ever anxious for AIPAC support for their campaign funds. However, Shamir's weakness is that the very economic difficulties which are damaging President Bush make the gigantic financial aid he is demanding more unpopular with the U.S. public, who are more inclined than previously to make the necessary concession.

However in the short term, it is important that Shamir faces an unusually critical administration in Washington. As a venue for bilateral talks with Arab delegations he would marginally prefer the U.S. capital to Madrid, but it would still attract a vast world audience which is likely to be no less sceptical towards Israel's negotiators than in Spain. Mr. Shamir's best hopes remain with the attitude of the Palestinians even if these were belied by their skilled performance in Madrid. The temptation is strong for the PLO to harden its terms for continuing cooperation with Mr. Baker. It is quite logical to expect a resumption of the dialogue between Washington and Tunis. But logic has not been the criterion in any of the moves to initiate the peace process in the first place. It is of far greater significance that the Bush administration has shown beyond question that it is ready to be tough with Shamir in matters of real importance. Baker's firm attitude prevented the Israelis from walking out of the Madrid conference on more than one occasion. This has now been confirmed by the Israeli government's decision not to prosecute Dr. Hassan Ashrawi for her PLO contacts.

Israel can still hope that some new stricture on the Palestinians' choice of negotiators will cause them to boycott the second phase. But having shown so much forbearance until now, the PLO must not let themselves be lured into an Israeli trap. The crucial fact is that Shamir was forced to go to the Madrid conference against his will and if he cannot now divert the peace process into more favourable channels he will prefer to block it altogether — provided, as always, he is not clearly seen to be responsible. But this may no longer be easy and it is up to the Palestinians to see that it is impossible — Middle East International, London.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

JORDAN UNIVERSITY of Science and Technology, in the north, is not merely a university, it is rather an accomplishment by the Jordanian community under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. The paper said that under the direction of King Hussein, scientists, officials and technicians have cooperated to bring this great edifice and institute into being in order to offer a qualitative service to the new generation. The paper said that the King and the Jordanian people take pride in this great achievement and have reason to be delighted over the commencement of its operations and activities. King Hussein was warmly welcomed by the people of Ramtha, where the university is situated, and they were overjoyed for meeting with their leader and deeply gratified over his endeavour to serve his nation through providing educational facilities of such prominence and magnitude, the paper added. With such accomplishments, Jordan is proud to rise to the needs of educational developments and through the university staff and administrators it is hoped that the dream of the new generation will come true, said the daily. The paper said that with the new achievement, the Jordanians will find a new incentive and motive for forging ahead with even greater accomplishments designed to attain further progress.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticised the current attempts to deal with the symptoms of the economic ills and not with the chronic problems which caused the illness. Fahd Al Fneak said that the allocation of JD 35 million to distribute to the poor or the unemployed, as a government official had suggested, can by no means end the chronic issue or terminate unemployment and poverty in Jordan. The writer said cosmetic surgery can only offer temporary relief but no permanent solution. It is like giving aspirin to a patient with high fever due to an inflammation to serve as a sedative and make him go to sleep without removing the cause of the illness, the writer added. He said one has to look behind the weaknesses and the real illness in the economic structure and try to reform the situation to pave the ground for the complete removal of the illness. Combating poverty, he said, requires an increase in the domestic product and equitable distribution for all citizens, while combating unemployment requires the creation of income-generating projects and jobs for the unemployed, this can come through new investments and giving the private sector a free hand in enterprise, the writer stressed. The real cure will take some time, the writer said, but if the prescription is followed to the end, the cure is assured and conditions are bound to improve.

After Madrid, tougher conditions for a land-for-peace deal

By Emma Murphy

ON Sept. 23, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir attended a ceremony marking the founding of the Tzur Yigal settlement on the border between Israel and the West Bank, the Green Line. Mr. Shamir stated categorically that "with the establishment of this settlement, we are saying that we must settle and settle, and that the dream will always be that all the territories are ours." This settlement is one of many which, according to Ariel Sharon's Star Plan, are intended to erase the reality of the Green Line. The Palestinian centres of population are being strangled, squashed increasingly into isolated pockets of land, surrounded on all sides by rapidly growing settlements of Zionist zealots.

Meanwhile, on the final day of the Madrid talks, Israel further demonstrated its "desire for peace" by formally establishing a new civilian settlement, Kela, on the Golan Heights, with Housing Minister Ariel Sharon declaring that the Golan would never be returned to Syria.

It appears that the Israeli government is fundamentally opposed to any territorial compromise or withdrawal. However Israeli officials in Madrid tried to dress up their intransigence, the fact remains that they have nothing to offer in any peace talks, other than their own brand of "personal autonomy" for those Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

If there is so little to be gained by Palestinians, why should they then appear so eager to engage the Israelis in this dialogue? Clashes in the West Bank and Gaza between Fatah on the one hand and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and Hamas on the other are proof that the Palestinians themselves are divided on this issue. Madrid committed them to go along with Secretary of State James Baker's tactics, not to say joint strategies with the Syrians which hold a considerable degree of unpredictability. It may well be that a deal was made whereby Syria played tough to the Palestinians' readiness to do a deal, presenting both faces of the Arab card in what became for the Palestinian team a significant public relations success. Nevertheless, the whole set-up reflected the Palestinian dependence upon its Arab allies and a corresponding lack of any meaningful autonomous bargaining power.

The positive outcomes

Whatever the doubts regarding attendance of the conference, however, it is in retrospect possible to assume certain positive outcomes.

Most important, the fact has been established that the Palestinians are a legitimate and vital party to any peace negotiations. Unlike Camp David, which assumed that Egypt could bargain on the Palestinians' behalf, Madrid

has set the precedent that the Palestinians can and must negotiate for themselves. All the Israeli obstinacy about including known Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) sympathisers cannot change the fact that everybody knows this is de facto a PLO delegation. Binyamin Begin, an aspiring successor to Mr. Shamir, may think that this represents "the first signs of the creation of an alternative leadership to the PLO," but the reality is that, while the balance of power may be moving in favour of middle-class intellectuals from inside the territories, and away from the leadership in Tunis, the level of cooperation and consultation between the two has so far indicated a unifying rather than divisive trend. This may even be interpreted as a positive reassertion of links between the territories and the diaspora in contrast to the differences made apparently by the intifada. This is not to deny that the Palestinian delegation must remain aware of the potential political advantage to be gained by Israel if any sign of disagreement between themselves and Yasser Arafat should appear.

Reports came from Madrid of further talks which will separate the Palestinian from the Jordanian delegates, reinforcing the apparent "arrival" of the Palestinians as a separate entity on the regional scene. This was denied by Mr. Shamir once he was back in Israel, although he conceded that delegates from each side would deal with issues directly

relating to themselves when they arose, within the context of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The significance of Israel having distinguished between Palestinians and Jordan is tremendous, even so.

Having come in from the cold, the Palestinian delegation presented an impressive public relations effort. With equal press coverage guaranteed, the Palestinians appeared to be the most dignified, calm, moderate and articulate of all parties concerned and the Israelis were correspondingly hard put to appear as anything other than difficult, uncompromising and, dare one say it, rather short of women delegates. This kind of international exposure dispels images of gun-toting terrorists and emphasises the victim status of the Palestinians in contrast to the security risk images which Israel wishes to project. The televised scenes of youths waving olive branches in the territories, subsequently being arrested by Israeli soldiers for illegally demonstrating, only served to underline this.

For the American government, the Palestinians proved to be the least awkward and most constructive delegation, highlighting the contrast with Israeli diffidence and making the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue one which the Americans will find it difficult to walk away from.

An Israeli acknowledgement

Ultimately, however, the solution to the instabilities of the

region can only come from the exchange of land for peace. Despite their resistance, even the Israelis know this. The reference to Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 made at the press conference following the direct talks with the Palestinians and Jordanians was the first such Israeli acknowledgement that these resolutions would have to provide the basis for future substantive talks. No doubt this acknowledgement will eventually be tempered with interpretations which relate more to the concept of "personal autonomy" than to real territorial compromise, but the cornerstone on which Palestinians may build their case when seeking external — in particular U.S. — support is laid. The challenge now facing the Palestinians is to convince the U.S. that such autonomy is simply a formal disguise for total land expropriation, with all its invidious consequences, and that only genuine territorial autonomy can serve as an interim arrangement.

Meanwhile, however, Mr. Shamir, having been bullied into attending the conference, and having stalled it for as long as possible with preconditions, now appears to see his best option as lying in pursuing a talks-about-talks strategy which continually imposes decreasingly acceptable conditions on other parties. He is unable to personally reverse long-held commitments to retaining the occupied territories. Yet he is equally unable to successfully fend off external pressures to conform to the international con-

sensus that now is the time for peace. At home his right-wing colleagues become daily more outspoken in their criticism of his participation in the talks, yet he is fully aware that while there is literally nothing to talk about if not the conditions for the return of land, he must appear to be willing to talk if Israel is to maintain any external, notably U.S. sympathy. The monetary euphoria with which the Western world greeted the sight of Arabs and Israelis seated together will not last long if the land-for-peace issue is not addressed, at least partially, in the foreseeable future.

From Madrid, one can easily attribute the bickering and maximalism of the last few days to the need on all sides to assert positions of strength. The real deal-making will be an altogether much more discreet process. From Jerusalem, however, this argument appears unconvincing. Accelerated land expropriation, continued settlement construction, the channelling of Soviet immigrants to the occupied territories and the daily statements by Israeli political leaders against any kind of territorial compromise do not suggest that the Israelis are merely playing a game of bluff but that they are in deadly earnest when they say that the returns of those lands is definitely not on their agenda. — Middle East International.

Emma Murphy is a research fellow at the Department of Politics, Exeter University.

U.S. heads for collision with Israel over Mideast peace

By Alan Elsner
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The United States has put itself on a collision course with Israel by proposing that the Jewish state begin discussing with Syria an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights.

Diplomatic sources said the U.S. proposal was floated in invitation sent last week to Israel and Syria to attend peace talks in Washington next week.

In another proposal, this time aimed at Israel and Lebanon, the United States proposed that an Israeli-backed Lebanese military hand over to the Lebanese army control of the strategic town of Jezzine in southern Lebanon.

Analysts said the proposals signalled that Washington intended to be a driving force in Middle East peace efforts, inaugurated at last month's Madrid peace conference.

"These are just the kind of

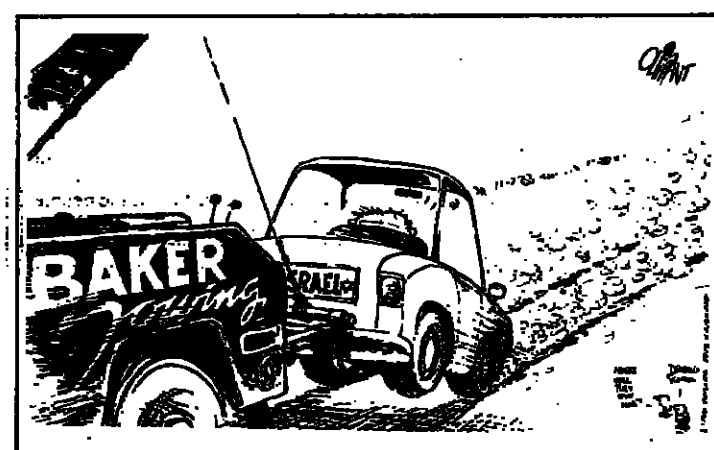
proposals we need," said one delighted Arab diplomat. It shows that the United States is not just going to be a mediator but will be very active."

But delight in the Arab World is often reason for gloom in Israel and this is no exception. Inevitably, by proposing "land for peace" deals of this sort, Washington is inviting a new confrontation with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Mr. Shamir's right-wing government rejects the idea of withdrawing from even an inch of the Arab territories Israel has occupied since the 1967 war — the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Golan Heights and East Jerusalem.

"It looks like Israel is headed for a confrontation with the United States sooner or later. They may as well have it sooner," said one American Jewish leader.

"This is not what Israel conceives as America playing an honest broker. An Israeli with-



drawal from the Golan Heights? In return for what? A hypothetical promise of peace? It's not serious," he said.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The U.S. proposal on the Golan Heights is explosive be-

cause it violates the tenet at the heart of Israeli strategic thinking for a generation — that, come what may, Israel must keep the strategic plateau, which Syria once used to bombard Jewish settlements in the Jordan Valley.

Israel virtually annexed the territory in 1981. Earlier this month, its parliament reiterated

that it would not negotiate its status.

The United States always said it would present bridging proposals to the parties should their talks become deadlocked. What is unclear is why it put forward proposals now, before the talks had even begun much less reached an impasse.

One theory is that the Bush administration was worried that the Syrians would walk away from the peace process and so decided to give them a public indication it supported their position on the Golan Heights.

"There is limit to how far they can take this approach and how many bruises Shamir is prepared to accept," said Adam Garfinkle of the Foreign Policy Research Institute. "Sensitivities with Israel are so acute that if you rub them the wrong way one more time, you could go over the limit."

Signs of brewing confrontation were already apparent when Mr.

Shamir held what sources described as bad-tempered meetings with Secretary of State James Baker and President George Bush last week.

As Mr. Shamir saw it, Washington rode roughshod over his demand to hold the peace negotiations in the Middle East. It did not even give him a chance to present his case to Mr. Bush before issuing the invitations.

Israel has dragged its feet on replying. While it seemed unlikely to refuse to attend the talks, it has signalled that it wants limited discussions confined to procedural questions.

"Shamir is trying to get Bush and Baker to understand that the United States cannot impose solutions on Israel. If they do, there can be no progress even on procedural matters," said Martin Indyk, director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

"The message from Shamir is: If you want to play this role, try it and see how far you get."

The week in print

Israel must comply with U.N. resolutions; new government has tough road ahead

JORDANIAN newspapers in the past week gave prominence to the Middle East peace process in view of the coming talks in Washington, the issues facing the new government of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and a host of domestic issues.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab said that if the United States wants to really achieve a just settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, it should first control the arrogance of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his cabinet minister Ariel Sharon.

Salameh Ekour said that the United States should force the Israeli government to comply with the will of the world community and the United Nations resolutions and withdraw from the occupied Arab lands. The writer said no one believes that the Israelis can continue to challenge the U.S. administration and can survive without American support.

In the view of Tareq Masarweh, the upcoming negotiations are going to be with the United States only because Israel does not wish to negotiate with the Arabs nor return any land to them. Masarweh, who writes for Al

Ra'i Arabic daily, said that during the negotiations between the Americans and the Arabs, the Arabs will demand their rights back, in the face of continued Israeli rejections.

But he said that as long as Israel and the United States are in secret agreement about not giving up land in exchange for peace, the Arabs can never hope attain anything from the coming negotiations.

In the opinion of Hamadeh Faraaneh of Al Dostour, the Arabs hold three winning papers in the coming negotiations: the presence of Palestinians struggling for independence under occupation, the need to see the international legitimacy implemented, as supported by the world community, and the readiness of the Arabs to recognise Israel and make peace with it if it complies with the requirements of peace.

Ahmad Dhiban said that the Arabs should not forget that the United States continues to appease Israel and support its views. The writer said in his column, in Sawt Al Shaab, that by agreeing to move the venue of the negotiations to the Middle East after the opening talks in Washington, the United States is trying to win Israel's favour. The

United States would also try to win more favour from the Jewish state at a later stage at the expense of the Arab World, he warned.

A columnist in Al Dostour called on the Arabs to concert their stands at the coming negotiations and suggested that Syria take the lead in this respect. The Arabs together can constitute a strong force in the face of Israel's intransigence and can abort any Israeli move to deal with the Arabs one at a time in order to achieve its evil designs, said Taher Al Udwan in Al Dostour.

Referring to the current U.S.-Israeli crisis, Abdul Rahim Omar said that differences in views between the two allies are real.

Omar said that the United States' interests are different from those of Israel and Washington can not allow any country to compete with it for the Arab oil. The U.S. can neither allow any country in or outside the Middle East region to become more influential than itself over the destiny of the Arabs and therefore Washington has to have its own way in all matters related to the future of this region, Omar said.

Mustafa Abu Lebdeh said in Sawt Al Shaab that Israel is really concerned because it believes President George Bush can stop

at nothing in his drive to win a new mandate for himself in the White House. He will try to win the prestige of ending the Arab-Israeli conflict at any price. The writer said that Mr. Shamir has discovered during his recent tour in the United States that Israel's cause is no more a sacred thing for the Americans. Besides, he said, the Americans believe that the Arab oil is very important for the American economy and reduce the huge deficit in the American balance of payments.

Turning to the mission of new government of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Abdul Majid Nuseir said that the government was facing enormous domestic challenges in addition to those on the external front and the peace process.

Writing in Sawt Al Shaab, Dr. Nuseir said that the government has to give attention to the prevalence of law, national unity, political pluralism, economic and social ills, like unemployment and poverty, among a host of other problems which include the reform of public administration.

Hamadeh Faraaneh, of Al Dostour, said that the government is in need of new techniques and proper methods to ensure the

implementation of the directives of His Majesty King Hussein and to carry out the government reform programmes. Apart from dealing with the internal issues, the writer said, the government is bound to concert its efforts with the Arab states directly involved in the Arab-Israeli dispute to achieve success at the Middle East peace talks.

The writer said that the government should expand its base and adopt sound measures to enable Jordan to rid itself of the obsolete routine so as to achieve success.

Munes Al Razzaz, of Al Dostour, tackled the question of American threats directed at Libya and said that Washington is viewing the world at its own property after following the end of the cold war and in view of its victory in rallying world efforts to crush Iraq.

By committing another aggression against the Arabs, the writer said, the United States hopes to offer Israel another advantage over its Arab adversaries. His views are backed by Taher Al Udwan, in Al Dostour, who said that the false accusations against Libya are aimed at paving the way for an aggression against the Arab country.

The writer expressed regret

that Libya would not be able to rally support for its just cause from the Arab World since, he said, the Arab countries are in disarray because they are under Washington's influence.

Salah Abdul Samad said in his column in Al Ra'i Arabic daily that the Labour Ministry can not, on its own, deal with the question of non-Jordanian workers employed in the country and has to be assisted by the private sector.

The writer referred in particular to the question of a recent report that only 21,000 out of 165,000 non-Jordanian workers hold work permits and said that a situation like this should prompt the ministry to take strict measures and safeguard public interest by avoiding the loss of vast sums of money.

Salameh Ekour in Sawt Al Shaab paid tribute to the Prime Minister for outlining the programme of his government in the first Cabinet session. He said the Jordanian people hope that the government would adhere strictly to the King's directives and deal promptly with matters related to public administration, unemployment and poverty and end the corruption in government circles.

King: Israeli leaders fear just peace

(Continued from page 1)

Did you base your acceptance on positive information for a peaceful resolution (to the conflict)? And what do you expect from the Washington talks?

Q: The start of the peace conference in Madrid has enabled our brothers in Palestine, especially those who endured heroically for many years, to make a decent appearance in front of the whole world. Through Madrid they have reached every home and every person as a people struggling for their own rights on their soil. I think our performance in Madrid was good. We have prepared for that by providing the Palestinians with an umbrella within the joint delegation since there were no other options. Washington is a continuation of Madrid. It deals with Palestinian-Israeli and Arab-Israeli sides of the conflict. We continue on well-known bases. Resolutions 242 and 338, on which the original invitation to Madrid was based in addition to international legitimacy. I have great hope that despite the difficult and severe circumstances we are going ahead. We have called for peace since 1967. I personally was involved in the formulation of 242, though it did not get implemented so far. Then there is the other conference, multilateral talks, in which, it appears, many important countries will participate. We hope that during these negotiations Arabs will discuss the situation in the future once peace is achieved and Arab rights are restored. I think there are many positive sides to the multilateral. The Washington talks will mainly deal with the Palestinian aspect of the conflict, of the land and the right to it. While I think the other conference, and all others, and that to seek a just and honourable peace that would be accepted by future generations. That is why I think the multilateral talks would provide the chance for discussing the issue at a wider level especially as regards to Palestinian rights.

Q: (Indelible) As far as Palestinian-Jordanian coordination since the end of Madrid is concerned, work is going on. We have covered many stages. We will not be on the reaction and dealing with issues as they occur. Instead we have an agenda and we have an agreement that we are developing and in which all important issues are being discussed.

Q: What about coordination with the PLO? Is it continuing?

A: Coordination is continuing. As far as we are concerned the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. We have a Palestinian embassy. Our stand is always supportive, within our means, to the rights of the Palestinian people on the Palestinian soil.

Q: Israel announced yesterday: it won't go to Washington on Dec. 4 but on the 9th. What is your comment on that?

A: I think attempts like this will continue. I think they react from the fear of the present Israeli leadership of peace. That is why its opting for delay tactics and waste of time. As far as we are concerned we have received an invitation for the 4th and our joint delegation will go on this basis. Our arrangements are based on that.

Q: You mentioned Jordanian-Palestinian coordination. What about coordination with Syria? I have been reading lately about some difference of opinion between the Syrian and Jordanian stands?

A: There could be some differences in interpretations. But since I am talking about the past, I'll also talk about the future. We are for coordination, coordination on equal footing as brothers. Propelled only by the higher national interest. We need to give and take to agree when possible, and we should. God willing, agree on all our stands. In reality the problem seems to be the definition of coordination. Coordination should be a collective and joint effort. In the absence of this we have our own interpretation. We are proponents of coordination and cooperation, God willing.

Q: We have noticed that in your relations with Egypt, there is thaw. You have telephoned President Hos-

ni Mubarak and you sent him a message. Shall we expect closeness in Egyptian-Jordanian positions?

A: In my opinion positions are close, especially as regards our common cause that we are dealing with. I also believe that matters among Arab brothers should go back to its normal course. We are only soldiers carrying our duties, and men doing whatever we could with our nation's interest as our objective. We might have different approaches at times but we are doing our work and we hope that future generation will judge as positively.

Q: What are the issues which will be discussed at the multilateral talks? Is it right it will convene in Moscow by the end of this month?

A: We did not receive anything definite on the date or the place. But I think it will start after or within a short time of the start of the talks in Washington. By the way, since we mentioned Washington, I think Washington is a suitable venue. The U.S. is a very important power in our world now. Maybe the attempt to move the issue from Washington to another place indicates not only procrastination but also a desire to be far from the U.S., which has a large percentage of American Jews who are keen that Israel should follow a realistic and rational and more flexible policy. The U.S., which has for a long time chosen to play this role — which, I have no doubt it will try to play again. It is the role of a mediator who abides by the rules. It should be concerned with its campaign here as it should be respected in any similar situation anywhere in the world. It seems that Washington, and the U.S., is the suitable place. It seems that there are procrastination and escape attempts since we have a strong and just cause. In our case we defend peace and are trying to achieve it so as the generations after us will enjoy it and will accept it.

Q: Do you trust the seriousness of the U.S. administration in achieving peace?

A: It is our duty and our role. I think President Bush and his foreign minister, whom we had the chance to meet several times, have the determination and the intention to continue their work in a fair manner. Thus their goal is a just peace and ours is a just and honourable peace which the future generations will accept.

Q: Your Majesty, if we can go back to the multilateral talks; some say progress should be achieved in the peace negotiations first, and then the multilateral should be held at the same time with the bilateral. What is Jordan's position vis-a-vis this issue and what are the main points which will be discussed in it?

A: The main points discuss everything and I think chances and horizons given by this (multilateral) conference are much wider than this (bilateral) conference which we are about to start now. Therefore our conviction and belief is that it is necessary to be held very soon because it will form a very pressing and symbolic power in the way of softening and supporting rights.

Q: But it depends on Israel's stand. It seems Israel is not taking the peace process seriously. Suppose we reached a dead-end? Does His Majesty have a certain concept for getting out of the critical situation concerning peace?

A: We have looked for peace for many years and our position in this regard is very clear. The world is asking us to carry out our role and our duty and to practically contribute to the making of peace. The world is watching and the world is interested. This part of the world is very important. Therefore we should carry out the role and duty to defend peace; not at any price, a just peace, an honourable peace, a peace that gives the Palestinian his right on his national soil and gives everybody the chance to live in security and stability in this region and gives them all their rights. That is the kind of peace we are looking for. The region is under a microscope and the whole world is watching and our issue is a strong and just issue and our inclination towards peace is for a real, just and honourable peace. Israel with its leadership was radical and I think that even in Israel there are many who are against

radicalism, and are determined not to abort the process and to shoulder responsibility so that facts be known to everyone in the world.

Q: We all know the status of Jerusalem in the heart of His Majesty and in the heart of every Arab and Muslim. Do you envisage any solution or peace without Jerusalem as Israel claims?

A: It is very important. It is more important that being a part of a process. It is for all Muslims and for all.

Q: What about the settlement issue, Your Majesty?

A: This issue should be solved we believe. I have said it frankly more than once that there should be an impression that work (for peace) is serious. But the Arab side should continue to deal with the issue of peace (even at a time) when settlements are being built in the occupied Arab territories, which are under discussion.

Q: Suppose that progress towards peace was achieved. In the context of Palestinian-Jordanian relations, what the confederation means in the future? Is there a return to the issue of a united kingdom?

A: This people, Jordanians and Palestinians, are one people linked by strong bonds, clinging to one identity in both cases. But it forms two wings in one body, and practically forms elements in one family. It seems to me that the Palestinian tendency is towards distinct features. But the basis is that the people should practice this right, meaning the right to self determination over their national soil. We cannot in advance define the features before the Palestinian people retains its right on its national soil and can hence practice this right and choose. I think in conclusion there should be special relations which will be exemplary for relations between brothers. I think things have developed in our Arab World as a whole. One day we were talking about one country and we were talking about one leadership. The situation is now different, whether in the Arab World or the whole world. Now we talk about integration and cooperation as in, for example, the European experiment.

Q: We are not saying it is ideal, but it achieved a lot. I suppose in the Arab World we should achieve as they did and more in the future. But in the current formula, there is adherence to the Palestinian identity for the Palestinians, and there is adherence to the Jordanian identity for the Jordanians. When we talk about Jordan, we talk about all the good people here, all the good people regardless of their origins or the decision to sever ties with the West Bank be reviewed, particularly that Resolution 242 is legally, in terms of the international law, linked to Jordan? And there are some parties who propose this as a way of achieving international legitimacy?

A: Naturally the relation when it commenced was a relation between relatives and brethren and that of support and backing to save this part of the Arab World, which was one day targeted, and then of work on supporting the Palestinian side. When the unity started the aim was that (the Palestinian land) was a deposit till the Palestinian problem is solved. We took this decision in response to Palestinian and Arab demands. But this does not mean in any way to give an answer that might help the Palestinian side in any position. We had the honour to defend this land and there was a unity in which we pride ourselves and there was the saving of the West Bank and Jerusalem.

We seek to get back the land not for ourselves, but for its owners who will decide its future. We demand the return of this land and we will work on that, and then its owners will decide whatever they want. There is nothing new in this issue, which is sensitive — that I cannot say more at the present.

Q: Your Majesty, there has been an optimistic scenario and a pessimistic one vis-a-vis the outcome of peace talks or whether they succeed or fail. You have often warned against war or disturbances in the region if this last chance of peace failed. Are there any new elements to the assessment we heard from you before?

A: I will not talk of war at any day and I will not talk of it as long as there are no circumstances for it. If a battle in

forced on us we will defend ourselves with all our energy and capabilities. Talk of war is not one of my habits. War or the military option is the last option and in view of the current situation I am sure that the world as a whole is moving in the opposite direction from this kind of option, which may have been a possibility at one time or another in the past. If there is to be talk of force, then it would be force for self-defence, defence of land and our homeland. This is a right and a duty. If the peace efforts aimed at reaching a just and honourable solution accepted by coming generations fail, then the ground will be left to the extremist elements and frustration will breed cases which may lead the whole region to the brink of a precipice. I cannot predict the results, but a catastrophe of this kind, if it takes place, will not only affect this region or the people living in it but might also affect the world as a whole.

Q: Your Majesty, how the Arab situation in general and after what befell the nation as a result of the occupation of Kuwait and what resulted from that can be dealt with and what is the way out of this predicament?

A: We will do the impossible to come out of this current situation. I believe that every responsible brother in the Arab World and every person in this homeland — I am one of them — is aiming and hoping to deal with the repercussions of the past and to look at the present. If we look at the Arab people and the Arab states and the needed position towards confronting responsibilities as well as the present and the future, then things will become clear; facts will come to the surface and there will be real efforts to overcome all that happened for the sake of the interests of this region and for a better future, God willing.

Q: Your letter of appointment to the new prime minister emphasized the need to correct the imbalance affecting Jordanian-Saudi relations. Is there any way to cover the past and restore ties quickly to what they have been before?

A: We do not harbour towards our brother His Majesty King Fahd and our Saudi brethren anything but love and admiration for their stand towards us because throughout the march the truth is that they were always supporting this country and they never failed us in any obligation. In many cases they were the forerunners in providing help and support and this is something neither me nor the Jordanian people would ever forget. We have faced many surprises which we dealt with within our capacity. As to the situation we are in, it would end once facts become clear. I think that meetings are necessary and I am ready. I urge that meetings should take place at the highest levels although I think the issue does not require more than one encounter in itself and all negative aspects would disappear along with its impact because the interest is that of the people in the two countries and the Arab World. As to relations between the two kingdoms, the two countries are brothers and cooperation between us has always been unique. We do not get hurt from a brother because we consider ourselves only as men who have come, given the burden of responsibility and will pass away and only the people will stay in this nation.

Q: Noting that the Gulf countries were annoyed or sad over Jordan's stand in the Gulf war, can Your Majesty make clear whether Jordan supported the occupation of Kuwait or not and did President Saddam inform you of his decision concerning the invasion and did you know about it before hand or not?

A: For the last time, I state that Jordan was not informed on any day. Nor was I personally knowledgeable of a situation that would have resulted in harming the Arab states. I never approved nor supported any conspiracy of the sort. We noted some signs which greatly bothered us at and after the Baghdad summit but we hoped that the complexities would be solved in a brotherly manner and in completely different ways. Frankly I was surprised by the military operation of Kuwait or the military invasion of Kuwait or the changing of Kuwait's features or the annexation of Kuwait. We tried to resolve the

issue with all our means and within the Arab framework and this is all that happened. Once we meet our Arab brethren the true picture of our position will be clear to every one.

Our principled stand was clear from the very beginning — that occupying lands of others by force is basically outlawed. Its illegality stands with Resolution 242. We are for cooperation, trust and brotherly relations to relieve and clear any doubts.

Q: Are there efforts to hold a comprehensive Arab summit, mini-summit?

A: Any meeting would bring good results; God willing. There was talk and there may still be an opportunity shortly, God willing. It would give Arab leaders a chance to meet.

Q: Will you attend the Islamic summit?

A: God willing.

Q: If Your Majesty would allow me to turn to local issues. Is the last government change an indication of a com-

prehensive change in the internal and external policies and why was this move taken at this time in particular?

A: No, it is not the beginning of a comprehensive change at all. What is meant is democracy to which we are committed and which we have adopted. Although the first steps met with many difficulties and problems, we have chosen the road and we will continue to move with it, God willing. Naturally after the decision to sever ties with the West Bank we decided to conduct national elections. At that time or immediately after we took that decision, we were hit by the first economic shock which was caused by what had affected our brothers and friends in Palestine. It had reflected on us directly. Therefore we moved on the track of the elections. ...It could not be held before the decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank. Then there was the issue of the National Charter which was the last stage. The National Charter would become a larger reality in our

lives and therefore our people must have a say in who is going to represent them in the future in light of the new reality.

Q: This is the second government in which the Muslim Brotherhood is not represented. It is the beginning of confrontation with opposition? And if that confrontation occurred do you believe Parliament should be dissolved and elections conducted?

A: When the National Charter turns into reality in our life this would naturally lead to elections on their set date. The House is only two years old. Circumstances might force early elections. But the ultimate arbiter is the people, regarding government performance or parliamentary life as represented in the Lower House, which was elected by the people. From my position I am very keen to see that no trespassing from one side occurs on the other — not from the executive on the legislative nor from any on the judicial. I want the march to

(Continued on page 2)



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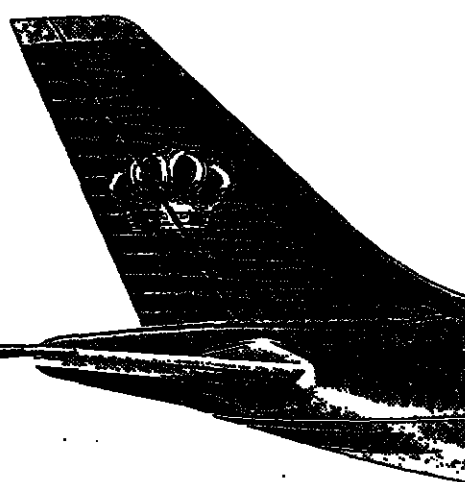
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Top Soviet boxer to turn professional in Australia

SYDNEY (R) — One of the Soviet Union's top amateur boxers, Konstantin Tszu, has decided to turn professional and should fight his first professional bout in Sydney in January 1992, fight promoter Bill Mordey said Friday.

Mordey has signed the light welterweight, a gold medalist at the recent sixth World Amateur Championships here, to a three-year contract which includes six fights in his first year.

"We hope to have the paperwork together so he can come here in late December and his first fight will be in January in Sydney," Mordey told Reuters.

Tszu's second fight will be on the undercard of the Jeff Fenech/

Azumah Nelson world junior lightweight title in Melbourne on March 1.

"He wants to be the first Russian to win a professional world championship, that's his ambition," said Mordey.

"I know he will win a world title. He is the most exciting fighter I have seen, apart from Jeff Fenech, in the last 10 years," Tszu, 22, a superb technician with lightning fast hands, was the standout performer at the World Amateur Championships which finished in Sydney last Saturday.

Tszu will be trained in Sydney by Johnny Lewis, who guided Fenech and fellow Australian Jeff Harding to a total of four world titles, Mordey said.

Mordey said he had no particular opponent in mind for Tszu's first bout but doubted there were many Australians capable of testing him.

Tszu won 259 of his 270 amateur bouts and was a European Championship light welterweight gold medalist in 1989 and a World Championship bronze medalist in 1989.

Tszu's signing could be the start of a regular flow of boxing traffic between Australia and the Soviet Union, Mordey said.

"The Russians want to send some fighters here and want us to send some Australian boxers over there. This kid Tszu holds the key to it all," said Mordey.

Crews face mud, wind and cold to keep rally drivers on the road

CHESTER, England (R) — Carlos Sainz, Juha Kankkunen and Didier Auriol may grab the glory but it is the mud-covered mechanics and support crews who are the unsung heroes of rallying.

They rise before dawn, work in atrocious conditions and chase across all terrains to keep up with a punishing schedule.

The Subaru team, which entered three cars and three top-class drivers in this week's RAC Rally — the British leg of the World Championship — provided a typical example of the complex logistical exercise and sheer strain involved.

On Monday, day two, the team were woken at four a.m. in their Chester hotel.

By five a.m. the 90-strong staff were on the road, speeding towards service and check points to ensure that the first stages of the day ran smoothly for Fins Markku Alen and Ari Vatanen and Briton Colin McRae.

Breakfast was provided in a windswept Welsh farmyard where the mechanics, wrapped in plastic against the icy wind, checked the three Subaru cars and the drivers went through their pace notes for the last time.

As the drivers ate scrambled eggs — except for Vatanen's co-driver Ilkka Kivimäki who consumed chocolate and cola — it began to rain and the first autograph-hunter of the day appeared. It was still only 5.35 a.m.

Minutes later the rally started and Alen, the veteran of the team, drove out of the farmyard for the first stage, through darkness and thick mud in the forests

of North Wales.

Vatanen and McRae soon followed and then the crew had to pack up camp and move as fast as possible to their next rendezvous at a service point, two hours later.

By then, David Richards, who co-ordinates the entire team operation by radio, was having to deal with the first problems of the day as he navigated, drove and talked simultaneously.

Alen called by radio to say his car needed a new gearbox.

Richards, managing director of Prodrive who runs the Subaru team, sent messages ahead, via the team's twin-engine plane which was flying overhead above the thick clouds, to organise the gearbox change.

"It's always the same with Markku," he said. "I bet once we have changed the box, we'll find there's nothing wrong."

The change was executed at the end of stage 11, in just 20 minutes, by five men working on a plastic sheet a few metres off the road. Each man had a torch strapped to his head.

Just as they had finished the job and Alen had departed for the next stage, his 23-year-old team mate McRae drove into view as leader of the rally.

The team waved him in for a routine service. McRae, in his rush, slid the car on the grass and slightly damaged the front as it crashed into the damped remains of Alen's abandoned gearbox, earning a reprimand from Richards.

Subaru had 10 large transporters, providing spares and mechanical back-up for the cars,

four tyre trucks, four general service trucks and eight support cars on the road plus the team's aircraft in the sky.

Alen continued to have trouble with punctures, poor engine performance and over-heating. He needed a new inter-cooler — a task performed by three mechanics on the side of a mountain road in another 20-minute frenzy.

McRae, who twice spun and lost his lead, had new brake discs fitted all round at one stage before the entire team re-assembled in a disused quarry as darkness descended.

By now, everyone was exhausted and some tempers frayed, particularly when Alen and Kivimäki, who have been together for 18 years, overtook an emergency service point for refuelling and got lost.

For half an hour, the airwaves crackled with map grid references as darkness drew in.

"Tell him not to run the engine empty or he will blow it," snapped Richards down the radio.

"How many litres of fuel does he have left?"

"Nine," came the answer. A quick piece of mental arithmetic told Richards that was enough for only 14 more kilometres — and Alen was driving flat out towards another service point nearly 20 kilometres away.

Richards organised a pincer movement with his mobile emergency service crews to intercept Alen and, with only three litres to spare, the car was refuelled.

"Sometimes it is like being the commander of an army in a war," said Richards. "But the thing is we all enjoy it."

Arsenal trio charged with misconduct

LONDON (R) — Arsenal's England internationals Ian Wright, David Seaman and Paul Merson were charged by the Football Association (F.A.) Friday with misconduct.

The F.A. made the announcement after a police report and a video film of incidents during and after the champions' match at Oldham on Nov. 16.

Striker Wright, a £2.2 million (£3.85 million) signing from Crystal Palace, and Merson were seen

to make provocative gestures to the Oldham fans.

Then at the final whistle Wright reportedly became involved in a spitting match with the fans.

Goalkeeper Seaman is alleged to have pushed a police officer.

Last season Arsenal were fined £50,000 (£87,500) and docked two points after a brawl during a match against Manchester United at Old Trafford.

But the F.A. have made it clear

the Oldham incidents will not be treated on anything like the same scale.

F.A. spokesman David Bloomfield said the police were happy to let the football authorities deal with the incident.

"That is not to say that players are outside the law, but football sanctions might be more serious," he said.

The three players face likely suspensions, possibly for three matches, and fines.

The trouble began after Wright scored a late equaliser, two minutes after escaping a second booking for a foul on Oldham defender Earl Barrett that would have meant his sending off.

When Wright received a warning only from the referee, Oldham fans were incensed.

Saunders scores twice to earn Liverpool win

INNSBRUCK, Austria (R) — Dean Saunders, his future under threat, scored twice to earn Liverpool a 2-0 win against Swarovski Tirol in their UEFA Cup third round first leg Wednesday.

Saunders, struggling for goals since his close season transfer to Liverpool from Derby for a British record £2.9 million (£5.1 million), put them ahead in the 38th minute when he fired the ball through the goalkeeper's legs

from a quick throw-in.

His second in the 78th minute virtually sealed Liverpool's place in the quarterfinals and was the perfect answer to manager Graeme Souness's attempts to swap the Welsh international.

Earlier Wednesday, Nottingham Forest assistant manager Ron Fenton said they had rejected a deal to exchange Saunders for Irish international Roy Keane.

Arazi lined up for unique derby double

PARIS (R) — Pegasus himself might have descended from the heavens, the day wonder-colt Arazi humiliated his rivals in the Breeders' Cup on Kentucky's famous Churchill Downs.

Now the horse many feel may be the best since World War II has the racing world agog ahead of the 1992 season.

Trained in France by Francois Boutin, Arazi lined up for the Breeders' Cup juvenile race three weeks ago with a tall reputation after six emphatic successes in all the big events in his home country.

Europeans already knew he was something special, but few could have foreseen the arrogance with which he dealt with the field at Churchill Downs.

Like something out of a Hollywood movie, Arazi raced in the rear early on and then proceeded to pass horses one by one as if they were wooden replicas, eventually winning by a long-looking four and three-quarter lengths.

It was a performance to remember.

Geoffrey Gibbs, vastly experienced senior handicapper with the British Jockey Club, described it as the best performance he had ever seen from a two-year-old. He felt he would never see better.

Comparison abounded with such great names as Secretariat, Seattle Slew, Nijinsky, Sea Bird and Ribot.

Last week Arazi was voted European Horse of the Year the American equivalent should follow.

Sheikh Mohammed of Dubai, Europe's top owner for the last few years, has paid \$5 million (\$8.97 million) for a half share of the action to American aircraft manufacturer Allen Paulson.

Now a unique double is on the cards — the Kentucky Derby on May 2 followed by the English Derby at Epsom.

Arazi's victory in Kentucky showed he could handle the dirt surface, while his career on the turf in France has been a grand affair. All the top juvenile races, including the grand criterium at Longchamp last month, fell his way.

Boutin said: "To complete the clean sweep (of juvenile races) like that was a fantastic achievement and, for me, a first."

To those critics who claim Arazi beat little of note in the U.S., the trainer retorted: "He beat a horse (Bertrando) who had been supplemented into the race at great cost and who, if Arazi had not been running, would have won that race by four lengths and collected all the top two-year-old honours."

"Obviously he beat a very good horse and not a nobody as some have suggested — but perhaps not as good as those he beat in Europe. Remember, so many of his victims (in Europe) have come out to win some very big races."

The colt's toughness has impressed his handler enormously. Boutin said: "His great strength has been the way he held his form from May to November and improved with the summer. Others I have had may have been as good or better but could not hold that peak of performance for so long — shining brightly but briefly. Arazi has shone for a whole summer."

So, crucially, will be as good a horse as a three-year-old when the classic prizes are up for grabs?

Boutin is frank. "Well, I don't know, but he looks to be a horse with scope," the Frenchman said. "He is very European in physique — not at all American — and if he does improve physically from two to three he could very well be the best I have ever trained."

The trainer bristled at suggestions in France that the horse's Breeders' Cup success could be partly attributed to running, like so many in America, with the pain-killer bute, a legal medication there but outlawed in Europe.

Boutin said: "All his previous successes were achieved without any medication and they were equally good. The medication was just a precaution, not a spur. It is ridiculous to belittle his success, on the one hand saying he beat nothing in that race, and then add that his victory was due to bute."

While in Kentucky, Arazi had a minor and successful operation on his knee. The colt returns to France next month and then fans on two continents will start counting the days to May 2.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY NOVEMBER 30, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carol Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: In regard to any important decision that you make during this week, you may find that you don't let anyone talk you into a new programme or try to have you change your mind late tonight under the moon square Uranus.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have some private worries and concerns that you would like to keep to yourself for others could start avoiding you if you talk too much.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) A friend can prove a big disappointment indeed if you rely upon him instead of doing what is necessary yourself and asking no favours of anyone.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Be careful not to do anything that could offend not only any official but any of the little people of the community or you downgrade your image.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) There are lots of new ideas that come to you and you are tired of usual concerns but it is not the time for a change but you can study new methods.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your urge for more financial security does not come to you today by trying to force some money idea with an expert but by doing your own activity.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is your moment to show you do value the good will and

active alliance of a partner by going along without quibbling with some ideas your ally expresses.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Now you find that you need to make sure your own quarters more attractive and avoid temptation to tell off one who irritates you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Take some time out to please one of whom you are fond but who is in the doldrums but don't expect anything tangible in return just yet.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your own residence can be a site of big disappointment if you expect much there but you can win out over this if you spend your time making your home more attractive.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your interest in making daily routines more efficient and satisfactory would only lead to discussions now so hold your head high and do your job well.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You could have some money problems that are not settled by refusing to look at it but use much conservatism in handling it and don't discuss with outsiders.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You want retire within your shell now which is just great for the outside world could be a place of much disappointment if you try to force matters there.

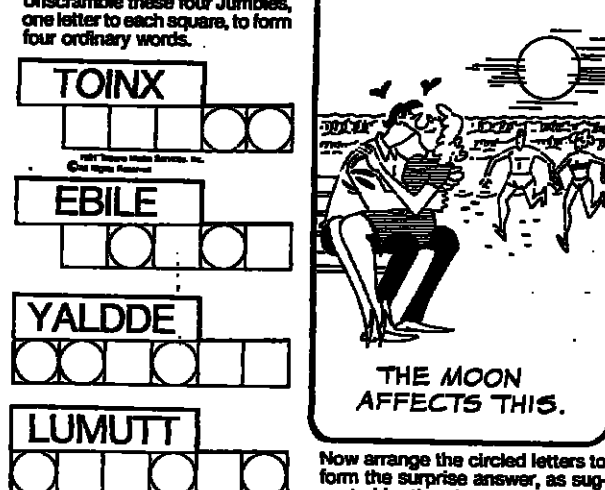
THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



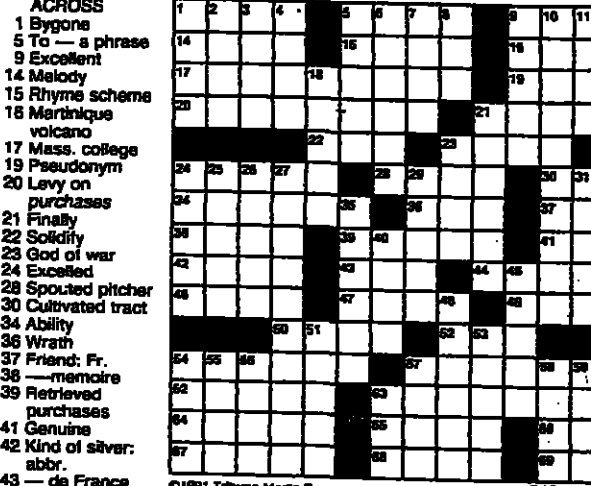
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: THE MOON AND THE MOON (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: VISOR BEGOT WEAKEN HAMMER Answer: He was fired from the bank when he took this HOME HIS WORK

THE Daily Crossword

by Rena M. Campbell



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS
1 Bypore
5 To — a phrase
9 Excellent
14 Melody
15 Rhyme scheme
16 Maritime volcano
17 Mass. college
19 Pseudonym
20 Levy on purchases
21 Finally
22 Solidify
23 God of war
24 Street show
26 Spouted pitcher
30 Cultivated tract
34 Ability
36 Wrath
37 Friend; Fr.
38 — memoirs
39 Retrieved purchases
41 Genuine
42 Kind of silver: abbr.
43 — de France
44 Remnant
46 Red deer
47 Singing pool
49 Harbor towns
50 Accessible to all
52 Keerness of hearing
54 Moves slowly
57 Separations
62 Street show
63 Linger over
64 City in Spain
66 Country road
68 Small case
69 Ringers
70 — 500
71 Casually

DOWN
11 Handles crudely
2 — code
3 Window part
4 Story
5 Social cause
6 Religious person
7 Wild goat
8 Negative vote

9 Sudden outpouring
10 Delivery company
11 — Kazan
12 Meadows
13 In case that
16 Ruler city
21 Take into custody
23 Flying prefix
24 — away (French)
25 Port-au-Prince
26 — is capital
27 Drifter
29 Windshield
31 Moslem ruler
32 Cheesecake
33 Blends
35 Indian groups
40 Parachute
45 — "in Paris"
46 Count (on)
51 Appeals
53 Tin Pan —
54 Curmudgeon

55 Great review
56 Seed covering
57 Tin of dye
58 Calendar abbr.
59 Schering
60 Heavy rain
61 PR of anger
62 551

FOR SALE OFFICE BUILDING

A building designed for offices, consisting of four floors and a basement. Total land area of 1,261 square metres. Building area, 2,268 square metres.

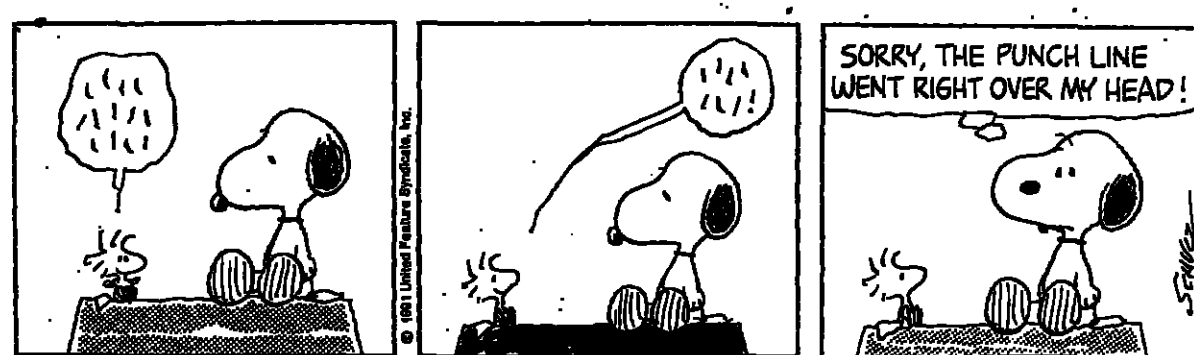
It is located in an excellent area in Shmeisani, near the Plaza and Marriott hotels, 22 Hussein Al Jisr Street. A vacant plot of land of an area of 827 square metres is annexed to the building.

Deadline for receiving offers is 1:00 p.m. Sunday Dec. 8, 1991.

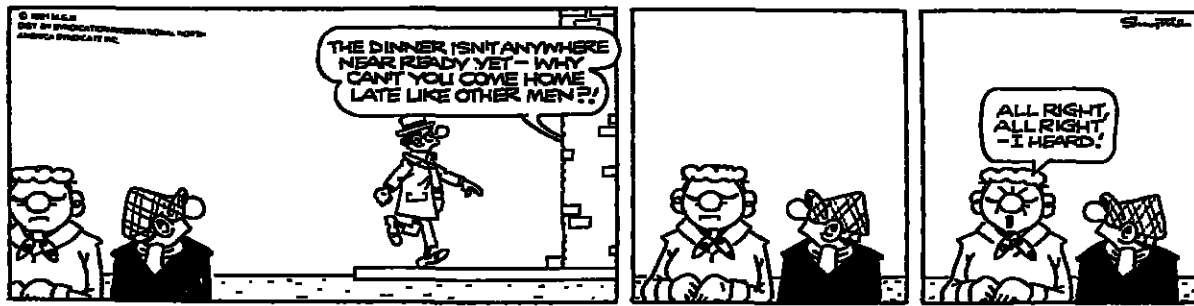
For inspecting the building and getting detailed information, pls. call the:

General Secretariat,
Council of Arab Economic Unity
Tel.: (9) - 664326

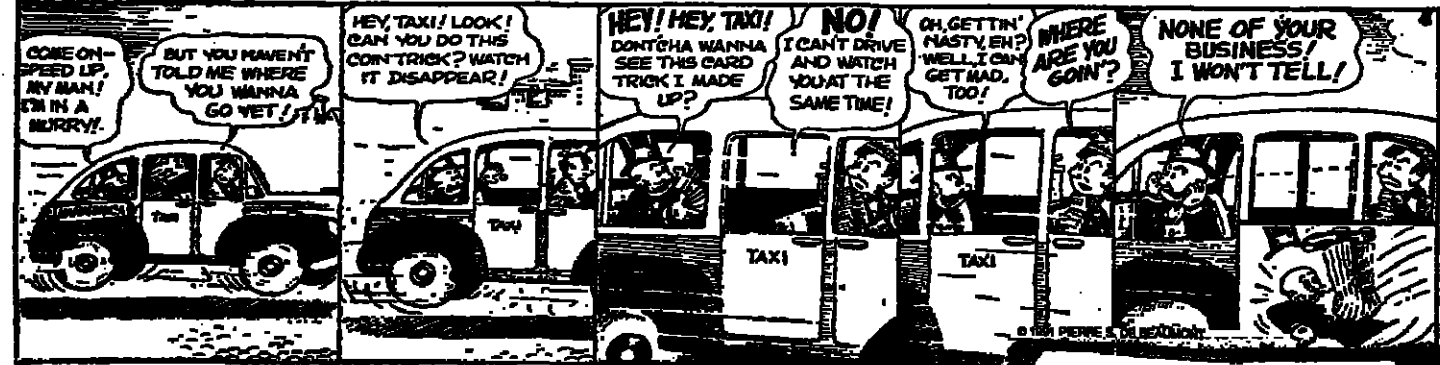
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



هكذا من الجمل

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date 27/11/91	TOKYO CLOSE Date 28/11/91
Sterling Pound*	1.7685	1.7685
Deutsche Mark	1.6145	1.6156
Swiss Franc	1.4260	1.4267
French Franc	5.5135	5.5110**
Japanese Yen	129.89	130.07
European Currency Unit	1.2605	1.2621 **

* USD Per STG
** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Interbank Bid Rates for accounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.12	4.87	4.81	4.93
Sterling Pound	10.37	10.43	10.43	10.43
Deutsche Mark	9.56	9.37	9.37	9.31
Swiss Franc	8.00	8.12	8.06	7.87
French Franc	9.68	9.68	9.62	9.56
Japanese Yen	6.34	6.06	5.87	5.68
European Currency Unit	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.18

Prevalent Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	367.80	6.90	Silver	4.09	.089

* 31 Gram

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 28/11/91

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.681	0.683
Sterling Pound	1.2021	1.2081
Deutsche Mark	0.4208	0.4229
Swiss Franc	0.4765	0.4789
French Franc	0.1232	0.1238
Japanese Yen*	0.5234	0.5260
Dutch Guilder	0.3734	0.3753
Swedish Krona	0.1149	0.1155
Italian Lira*	0.0558	0.0561
Belgian Franc	0.02043	0.02053

* Per 100

Other Currencies

Date: 28/11/91

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7770	1.7860
Lebanese Lira*	0.0772	0.0779
Saudi Riyal	0.1813	0.1820
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	0.18455	0.1852
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7430	1.7520
UAE Dirham	0.18455	0.1852
Greek Drachma*	0.3681	0.3732
Cypriot Pound	1.4777	1.4991

* Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	26/11/91	Close	27/11/91	Close
All-Share	125.03		125.14	
Banking Sector	104.76		104.91	
Insurance Sector	126.63		127.09	
Industry Sector	155.10		155.18	
Services Sector	138.74		138.43	

December 31, 1990 - 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.7545/60	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1345/50	Canadian dollar
	1.6350/60	Deutsche marks
	1.8410/20	Dutch guilders
	1.4405/12	Swiss francs
	33.65/66	Belgian francs
	5.5850/5900	French francs
	1230/1231	Italian lire
	130.20/30	Japanese yen
	5.9800/50	Swedish crowns
	6.4250/4300	Norwegian crowns
	6.3540/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	366.50/366.90	U.S. dollars

Trade deficit points to increasing weakness in Canadian economy

OTTAWA (R) — Canada suffered a \$11.1 billion dollar (\$276 million) trade deficit in September for the first time in more than 15 years as imports hit a record high and exports fell sharply.

"It is a disturbing number given the fact that most export categories are down," said Bob Boaz, chief economist with Deacon Barclay de Zoete Wedd Ltd. "The Canadian economy has stalled and it points towards the third quarter being at risk."

Canada pulled out of recession in the second quarter when the economy grew after a year of falling output.

Since then the frail economy has shown increasing signs of extremely slow growth.

Manufacturers blame the high value of the Canadian dollar against the U.S. dollar for the fall in exports, although the strong currency has given a boost to Canadian consumers.

According to government statistics, exports fell 852 million dollars (\$756 million) to 11.6 billion dollars (\$10.3 billion) in September while imports rose 524 million dollars (\$465 million) to 11.9 billion dollars (\$10.6 billion).

"Exports are falling relative to the second quarter, and that drag is compounded by a jump in imports," said Paul Ferley, an economist with the Bank of Montreal.

Most analysts had predicted a trade surplus of about one billion dollars (\$900 million) and blamed the drop in exports on weakness in the United States, Canada's largest trading partner.

"The U.S. economy is weak and exports will not surge. But there is reason to hope there will not be another sharp drop-off as seen in this month," said Mr. Ferley.

Canada has traditionally relied on a large trade surplus to offset interest payments and dividends on inflows of capital investment.

Economists said Canadian manufacturers, plagued by poor retail sales at home and weak demand abroad, are unlikely to rebound from recession soon.

Manufacturing output fell across the board in September, with shipments slipping 0.4 per cent, unfilled orders dropping 0.6 per cent and new orders down 0.3 per cent, the government agency Statistics Canada said.

"Manufacturing is weak and if there is any recovery it is a very weak recovery," said Mark Marquiesse, an analyst with Statistics Canada.

The trends for transportation, electrical, fabricated metals and wood manufacturers are all slowing down. And the prospects for coal, machinery and paper manufacturers are not much better, analysts said.

"Weakness in orders is very broad based and not related to a specific sector," said Arow Gampel, a senior economist with the Bank of Nova Scotia, who adds that order bookings are being trimmed back in conjunction with weakening retail sales.

"This calls into question an export-led recovery in Canada," he said.

"It looks like the recovery, even a very limited recovery, has petered out," said Andrew Jackson, chief economist with the Canadian Labour Congress.

"There is a real chance we slipped back into recession in the third quarter. Actually we never really came out of a recession but it was more like we bottomed out," he pointed out.

Indians show anger over reform

NEW DELHI (R) — A one-day nationwide strike called by leftists unions to protest against reforms in India's state-dominated economy crippled business across the nation Friday, officials and reports said.

The strike halted work at state-owned banks and insurance companies, forced cancellation of airline flights, disrupted public transport and shut down state industrial plants, Indian news agencies reported.

More than 12 million workers and 3.5 million government employees joined the strike, said M.K. Pandey, chairman of the All-India Industrial Strike Committee.

Acting Labour Minister P.A. Sangma disputed the figures, saying the strike had little or no impact in two-thirds of India, but he said the financial sector and air transport had been seriously affected.

The strike had limited effect in New Delhi and Bombay, but Calcutta, state capital of West Bengal where a communist-led government is in power, was virtually paralysed.

For India's Marxist parties, which hold about 50 seats in the 545-member Lok Sabha (lower house of parliament), the strike was an opportunity to rally members dismayed by the collapse of communism elsewhere in the world.

Workers squatted on railway tracks in West Bengal to stop trains. Railway officials said they were beaten and thrown out of their offices when they reported for work.

But the strike was generally peaceful across the nation of 850 million people, news agencies said.

A spokesman for Indian Airlines, the main domestic carrier, said 40 per cent of its Friday flights were cancelled.

Bombay officials said state-run banks and insurance companies were at a standstill but the city's port, India's busiest, was working normally and the crucial suburban rail network was unaffected.

Workers fear a planned restructuring of India's bloated and debt-ridden state enterprises will mean large-scale layoffs.

The government is planning major banking reforms. State-owned banks control 80 per cent of all assets and unions fear reforms will allow private sector banking to grow at their expense.

Harish Sharma, joint secretary of the Bank Employees Federation of India, told reporters on a picket line in the capital that the new policies, initiated at the "instance of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, are aimed at enslaving the country and destroying our self-reliance."

A Congress Party government returned to power in June, facing economic crisis and burdened with a \$71 billion foreign debt.

A month later, it stunned India with far-reaching economic reforms reversing four decades of government control of an economy protected from international competition.

The government swept aside red tape that businessmen had complained of, invited long-disparaged foreign companies to take majority stakes in joint ventures and liberalised a restrictive international trade regime.

It also borrowed about \$4 billion from the International Monetary Fund, which had been pressing for many of the reforms announced so far.

The government says a national renewal fund, being set up with \$500 million of World Bank money, will retrain and relocate workers who lose their jobs in the reforms.

Experts see slower than expected world recovery



Michel Camdessus

SANTIAGO, Chile (R) — Economic recovery in industrial nations appears to be slower than expected and the world economy could grow less than forecast in 1992, International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Michel Camdessus said Thursday.

The IMF had projected a moderate world recovery next year based on a 2.75 per cent rate of growth in industrialised countries.

"In the last few weeks we have observed several signs that the recovery of the U.S. economy could be less solid than expected," Mr. Camdessus said during a visit to Chile.

He said indicators also pointed to a more fragile economic situation in other industrialised countries.

"These signals have given rise to a visible loss of confidence among consumers and investors that contributed, no doubt, to the recent decline on stock markets," he said.

"We can still expect a recovery of growth in industrialised nations in 1992, but it could be somewhat less than we had expected," Mr. Camdessus said.

Speaking at the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mr. Camdessus said growth in developing nations will, likewise, be slightly under the IMF's original forecasts.

Latin America will achieve a real growth rate of 2.25 per cent in 1992, still too little, he said.

Mr. Camdessus said a majority of Latin American countries had undertaken structural adjustments, slashed their fiscal deficits and brought inflation under control.

A large group of countries could expect to grow between four and five per cent next year, among them Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, Peru and Chile, he said.

Mr. Camdessus singled out Argentina and Peru for bold efforts to adjust their economies.

He said Argentina had restored domestic and international confidence and the IMF hoped to support its adjustment programme with an extended facility agreement early next year.

On Peru, whose debt arrears include obligations with the IMF, Mr. Camdessus said: "Experience has taught me never to lose hope over the situation of a country."

Mr. Camdessus said there was much room to increase saving levels worldwide by cutting unproductive spending, particularly military budgets.

He said the additional saving could be enough to finance the rebuilding of eastern European economies, fund reforms in the Soviet Union and repair the damage done by the Gulf war without having to reduce aid to developing nations.

The World Bank's chief economist said last Tuesday that an anticipated recovery in the world economy is not happening and economic growth in 1992 will be disappointing, with this year one of the worst since 1945.

Lawrence Summers, who is also vice president of the bank, told an economic seminar in

their forecasts for U.S. economic growth in just the past few weeks, but they said they remained confident that the recovery is continuing.

The OECD now expects U.S. economic growth next year of about 2.5 per cent, instead of the 3.1 per cent it was forecasting before. That would make the recovery one of the slowest, if not the slowest, ever.

OECD officials said the economy should pick up steam as 1992 progresses. Growth in the fourth quarter of this year is expected to only be about 1.5 per cent, picking up slightly to some two per cent in the first quarter of 1992, they added.

An OECD official said he could not rule out completely the possibility of the economy actually contracting in the fourth quarter. But even if that occurred, it would not mean the U.S. economy was falling back into recession, just bumping along the bottom, he said.

However, he voiced concern about consumers' recent lack of confidence about the economy, saying that could prove self-fulfilling if it persists and trigger a double-dip recession.

OECD officials said the U.S. economy has failed to pick up as originally forecast because it has taken longer than expected for lower interest rates to spur spending.

While the OECD believes that interest rates have already been cut far enough, they said the Federal Reserve (Fed) could cut rates further without taking any major risk with inflation.

"We don't think there's any inflationary risk right now," one OECD official said. "If they (U.S. policymakers) want to take out insurance on the recovery, we would rather they ... lower interest rates than break the budget agreement."

But the OECD warned that the Fed will have to be ready to raise interest rates back up again after the economy picks up steam and well before it starts to strain against its capacity constraints. That, though, is unlikely to happen until 1993.

While the OECD generally gave good marks to last year's agreement to cut the budget deficit by nearly \$500 billion over five years, it warned that it could be undermined.

"We remain concerned about the budget deficit," an OECD official said.

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	Nov. 23-27	Nov. 16-20
Daily average	JD 1,901,160	JD 936,477
Total volume	JD 9,505,880	JD 4,682,385
Total shares	4,736,303	2,748,320
No. of contracts	4,063	3,495
Sectoral trading:		
Industrial	JD 6,872,830 (72.3%)	JD 3,118,886 (66.4%)
Financial	JD 1,637,725 (17.2%)	JD 969,153 (20.7%)
Service	(9.3%)	(11.9%)
Insurance	(1.2%)	(1.0%)
Share price index	138.4	137.3
No. of companies	75	77
Price movement (rise)	31	37
(Decline)	29	18
(Stable)	15	22

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuter

TOKYO — Stocks ended easier but off lows after a day dominated by arbitrage buy and sell programmes. The 225-share Nikkei average was down 93.07 points or 0.41 per cent to 22,687.35, with an estimated 250 million shares traded.

FRANKFURT — German shares showed their largest drop in 14 weeks as Moscow's worries touched the market weak spot — its close relations with the troubled Soviet Union. The DAX index closed down 21.59 at 1,566.57.

ZURICH — The Zurich stock ended a mostly lifeless session weaker but above the day's lows. The all-share SPI index closed down 7.1 at 1,040.2.

LONDON — The equity market ended slightly weaker with little in the way of good news to encourage the FTSE 100 index away from current depressed levels. It closed 8.4 down at 2420.2.

PARIS — Revived worries about the stability of the Soviet Union helped pull the Paris bourse down nearly one per cent in generally quiet trade. The CAC-40 index closed down 15.18 at 1,739.70.

TUNISIAN DATES

and not Iraqi dates as erroneously published in Jordan Times on 25/11/1991.

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Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

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Starring 'Abu Awwad Family'

After the great success it achieved continues its shows daily at 8:30 p.m.

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RAINBOW

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(Arabic)

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

U.N. troops pull back after attack on Cambodian leaders

BATTAMBANG, Cambodia (R) — United Nations peacekeepers have withdrawn from frontline positions in northwestern Cambodia fearing revenge attacks by Khmer Rouge guerrillas, a senior Australian officer told Reuters Friday.

Two days after arriving in Battambang, a three-man detachment of Australian signallers and 31 French transport specialists were ordered to return to Phnom Penh after an angry mob there attacked Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan forcing him to leave the country.

The soldiers, part of the U.N.'s Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC), had been deployed in Battambang, Cambodia's second biggest city, Monday to establish radio communications between the U.N. and Cambodian army headquarters.

The small U.N. force was ordered to pull out as a security measure after the attack on Khieu Samphan and his defence minister Son Sen, in Phnom Penh Wednesday, but would be redeployed in the near future, the officer said.

Mr. Khieu Samphan had returned to Phnom Penh that day from 13 years in exile under the terms of U.N.-sponsored peace accords between the government and a guerrilla coalition the Khmer Rouge dominates.

Seven hours after their arrival he was bundled, beaten and bloody, onto a plane back to Bangkok along with Mr. Son Sen after their residence was stormed by a vengeful mob of Cambodians.

The two men were forced to hide in a wardrobe while hundreds of attackers, some armed with axes, screamed for retribution for relatives killed during the 1975-79 Khmer Rouge revolution in which more than a million died.

Asked if the reason for the pullout was fear of Khmer Rouge attacks, the officer replied: "Yes, that's basically correct."

Australia has provided a 40-man contingent of signallers to UNAMIC and the deployment to

Battambang of a three-man detachment was to have lasted for the duration of the U.N.'s mission in Cambodia.

"We're pulling down in one day what took us three days to set up," said a despondent Australian corporal at a temporary base in Battambang's downy January 7th Hotel, after receiving orders to withdraw.

"I feel sorry for the locals. They think we're here to fight. That makes it tough."

The Cambodian army commander of Number Four Division, based in Treang district 40 kilometres south of Battambang, said he had ordered his troops to re-establish and clean out townships in case of a Khmer Rouge attack.

"After Khieu Samphan and Son Sen left Phnom Penh, I think they'll (the Khmer Rouge) soon attack us," said Lieutenant-Colonel Ken Bunthorn.

He said he ordered his troops to redig the trenches soon after he heard of the mob attack in Phnom Penh.

Government troops aimed Soviet-made artillery at Khmer Rouge positions around Pailin, a gun-making district near the Thai border held by the guerrillas.

On Thursday, intermittent shelling could be heard from government positions around the nearby Treang commune.

"So far we fight back to defend ourselves. We respect the ceasefire and we don't violate," Col. Bunthorn said. "But, if they (the Khmer Rouge) violate, they oblige us to return fire."

"We should not trust them because their actions are different to their talk," he said.

Speaking from his headquarters, a timber and dirt-reinforced bunker bearing the scars of past rocket attacks, the Phnom Penh commander said he hoped UNAMIC peacekeepers could be deployed to his position.

"I wish UNAMIC could be based here with us so we know who is violating the peace agreement. If UNAMIC just stays in Battambang they (the Khmer Rouge) will ignore the truce."

Scales of justice tip against U.K. system

LONDON (R) — The English judicial system, a model for much of the world, looked badly tarnished this week after fresh disclosures about miscarriages of justice.

Even as a government-appointed commission considered new reforms were needed, new cases of unsafe convictions during the 1970s and 1980s eroded public confidence in the nation's bewigged and robed judges, its juries and its police.

And the complexity of the ancient legal system, based on a mixture of statutes and precedents, drew criticism from Princess Anne, Queen Elizabeth's daughter.

"If you can't understand what the law is saying and what the law means, there is a major problem for society itself," she said.

Her comments capped a bad week for the law.

On Monday, an appeal court quashed the conviction of Winston Silcott, 32, jailed in 1987 for

the murder of a policeman who was hacked to death in a riot.

Tuesday saw the European Court of Human Rights censure the government for using the law to bar press coverage of a boud, Spycatcher, which contained memoirs of a former secret agent.

Next, big store chains announced that, as there has been no reform of centuries-old law which curbs them from doing business Sunday, they were simply going to break it.

The Silcott case and other miscarriages of justice, however, provoked the biggest outcry. Similar cases have involved Irish people being freed on appeal years after being convicted over fatal Irish Republican Army (IRA) bombing attacks.

A common thread in several cases has been that public outrage put police under pressure to get convictions.

Campaigners raised doubts about original trial evidence by the police, accepted by juries under

Kohl warned not to concede too much on EC

BONN (R) — Germany's opposition Social Democrats (SPD) warned Chancellor Helmut Kohl Friday not to concede too much on European integration to win support for a deal at a crucial EC summit next month.

The party's foreign spokesman, Norbert Gansel, said his party might block ratification of treaties on EC economic and political union if they did not strengthen the European Parliament considerably.

Mr. Kohl's decision to back a gradual strengthening of the European Parliament, a key concession he has made to win British support at the EC's Maastricht summit on Dec. 9-10, could hurt rather than help further integration, he said.

"A step-by-step plan can easily turn into a stumbling block along the road to Europe," Mr. Gansel told a radio interviewer. "If Maastricht does not bring any improvement, then German ratification is in danger."

Mr. Kohl originally wanted the European Parliament to take on wide-ranging powers by its next election in 1994.

He began speaking of a longer timetable this week after meeting British Prime Minister John Major, who faces deep concern within his own Conservative Party over any loss of sovereignty to the EC.

But the chancellor made clear Thursday he could make that concession only if the summit made the Community's progress towards full integration irreversible.

The head of the Bonn parliament's EC Committee, like Mr. Kohl a Christian Democrat, said her group also thought current plans for strengthening the European Parliament were too weak.

"The government will press for more improvements on these points," Mr. Renate Hellwig said in a statement Friday.

Ukraine expected to choose independence

KIEV, Soviet Union (R) — Defying warnings of catastrophe from President Mikhail Gorbachev, Ukrainian voters are likely to choose independence Sunday and slam the door on his plans for a new Soviet confederation.

Ukrainian politicians expect voters to say "yes" for independence by a convincing majority, confirming a decision taken by parliament in Kiev after the collapse of last August's Moscow coup.

Voters will simultaneously choose the first directly-elected Ukrainian president from a field of six candidates.

Parliamentary Chairman Leonid Kravchuk, a former Communist Party ideologist, is strongly favoured to win against a divided opposition.

Local journalists said Kravchuk's chances of winning over 50 per cent majority on the first ballot and avoiding run-off were improved this week by the withdrawal of Agriculture Minister Alexander Tkachenko.

Mr. Tkachenko called on his supporters to give their votes to Mr. Kravchuk.

The Ukraine has been ruled from Moscow for more than 300 years, since the two countries were linked by a treaty.

Its first attempt to achieve independence after 1917 Bolshevik Revolution was crushed by Moscow.

An independent Ukrainian state would have 53 million people, making it among Europe's largest countries.

Despite the likely outcome of the vote, there is little agreement on what independence will mean or the economic and political price the Ukraine may have to pay to decide it.

"Everybody wants to live in a free Ukraine, but everybody understands that in their own way," said Yuri Markarov, leader of a workers' strike committee.

"What I fear is that an independent Ukraine will end up as a reproduction of the old Soviet Union on a smaller scale, said Arkady Bondaryevsky, a radiologist.

Critics of Mr. Kravchuk say he is the candidate of the old Communist bureaucracy which still occupies almost all top positions in the Ukraine, despite the fact that the ruling party itself no longer exists.

They accuse him of being too ready to make concessions to Moscow and of lacking the commitment of radical political and economic change displayed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Shock for De Klerk as black-white talks start

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's first political reform talks between whites and blacks began Friday after white voters delivered a loud "no" to President F.W. de Klerk's plans to share power with blacks.

While most sides at the historic talks at a Johannesburg Airport Hotel expressed optimism about creating a post-apartheid constitution, the pro-apartheid Conservative Party celebrated a crushing victory over Mr. De Klerk's National Party in an all white parliamentary by-election.

The Conservatives — the only major party boycotting the talks — seized the rural Orange Free State constituency of Virginia Thursday night by more than 3,000 votes, representing a 15 per cent swing away from the Nationalists and their reform message.

Independent political analysts said that while the result was a bad blow for Mr. De Klerk, it did not necessarily mean he would lose a national white referendum on his reforms, widely expected to take place next year if the talks go well.

But Conservative Party leader Andries Treurnicht called on Mr. De Klerk to hold another all-white election going any further and predicted his party would win.

Within minutes of convening Friday, 21 political groups, including the white government, elected two senior judges to chair the two-day talks at preparing for full-scale negotiations on Dec. 20.

"We are very optimistic," said Cyril Ramaphosa, general secretary of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC), the biggest black grouping. "We think we are going to have very good outcome."

Defence Minister Roelf Meyer, representing the National Party which introduced apartheid in 1948 and abandoned it this year, said: "There is no alternative to negotiations."

He and Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee brushed aside the Virginia loss as resulting from a local economic recession.

But as the conference convened, radio stations were running interviews with Virginia whites saying they were dismayed at government plans to shed 300 years of white supremacy. Several said that if they could not stop Mr. De Klerk at the ballot box they would take up their guns.

The talks are the first on political reform between range of anti-apartheid organisations and a white government.

Barney Dessel of the radical Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) told reporters: "We hope we can come out of this with a government of legitimacy. If there have been any deals done we must undo them."

The PAC dropped a political bombshell Wednesday when it accused the ANC of undermining their new patriotic front negotiating alliance by secretly agreeing with Mr. De Klerk to set up an interim government. Both the government and the ANC have denied it.

Column

Doomsday clock reset for a changed world

CHICAGO (R) — The keepers of the Doomsday Clock reset its hands Tuesday, telling the world it is now safer from nuclear war than at any time since the end of World War II. The directors of the bulletin of atomic scientists, the publication that created and maintains the symbolic clock, pushed the minute hand back 17 minutes before midnight — the hour that represents nuclear holocaust. It is the farthest away from midnight the hand has ever been in the clock's 46 years. Even more symbolic, perhaps, is that the clock depicts only the last 15 minutes of the hour, and the minute hand is now two minutes outside that range. "The world has entered a new era," the magazine announced in an editorial. "The cold war is over. The 40-year-long East-West nuclear arms race has ended. The illusion that tens of thousands of nuclear weapons are a guarantor of national security has been stripped away." Until Tuesday the hand had been at 10 minutes to midnight.

Major named U.K. worst-dressed man

LONDON (R) — A fashion magazine ribbed Prime Minister John Major for reputedly tucking his shirt into his underpants and named him Britain's worst-dressed man. "The suit wears him and he will never live under the underpants," Arena magazine said in naming Mr. Major "the greyest of them all" in its League of Britain's 20 worst-dressed men. Mr. Major's fu: poked at his fashion style and his office had no comment on the latest broadside. The British Shops and Stores Association recently branded his clothes a complete bore.

Olympic champion admits spying for Stasi

CHEMNITZ, Germany (R) — Lutz Dombrowski, the 1980 Olympic long jump champion, has admitted that he had worked as an informer for the state security police of former Communist east Germany. Dombrowski told the Chemnitz Morgenpost newspaper that he had signed an agreement to supply information about fellow athletes to the Stasi, who spied on millions of east Germans and compiled files on every aspect of their lives. "I am sorry that I signed in 1979. I was just frightened that I would not be allowed to travel abroad anymore," Dombrowski, 32, was quoted as saying. He is the first top-class sportsman to admit to having worked for the organisation.

Elderly sisters lose car at garage

LONDON (R) — Two absent-minded sisters blamed thieves when their car vanished from outside their London home. Beryl and Doris Mead, both in their 80s, forgot they had asked a garage to tow the car away for repairs after it failed to start on Wednesday. They only realised their mistake three months later after they took a new car they bought with insurance money into the same garage for repairs. They found their old car waiting for them. And ironically there was nothing wrong with it — they had forgotten to fill the petrol tank.

'Tarzan boy' found living in squalor with dying pets

LONDON (R) — Police broke into a house in Britain's "stockbroker" belt to find an 11-year-old mystery boy living in squalor with 80 dead and dying pets. Wednesday newspapers dubbed the child, who had waist-length matted blond hair, the "jungle boy" and said his mother, 31, had kept him caged up in a house of horrors in the well-heeled country of Surrey, south of London. "I find it mind-boggling that for 11 years without the authorities knowing," local Social Services Director Graham Gattuso said. Police went to the house on an unrelated matter and found the woman and boy living amid a menagerie of sick and dead pets. Hundreds of mice scavenged in piles of rotting rubbish. Neighbours said they had been too frightened of the mother to report the boy's existence to authorities. The woman and boy, who were not named, were taken into local authority care.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Former Japanese minister jailed

TOKYO (R) — A former Japanese cabinet minister received a punitive prison term Friday for evading billions of yen in tax on stock speculation profits while in office. In a landmark case against Japan's tradition of money politics, Toshiyuki Inamura, environment minister between 1983 and 1987, was sentenced to three years and four months with hard labour without possibility of remission. Mr. Inamura was the first politician to receive such a prison term, seen as a warning to others, since former Premier Kakuei Tanaka was convicted in the 1976 Lockheed bribery scandal. Sentences on tax evasion cases are usually suspended in Japan on pledges of future good conduct. "The defendant betrayed the people by evading his duty to pay taxes. Also, the sum was too large," said Judge Shigeru Matsura at the Tokyo district court. "The defendant definitely lacked responsibility as a member of parliament who should be an example to the nation," he said. Mr. Inamura, who had pleaded guilty to the charges tried to appeal for leniency on the grounds that politicians required massive funds to stay in office and that he had shown remorse by resigning from his lower house seat.

Last cases filed against Mrs. Marcos

MANILA (R) — The Philippines Friday completed filing criminal charges against Imelda Marcos, raising the number now pending against the former first lady to 80. Solicitor-general Francisco Chavez said Friday's 12 counts of corruption would be the last criminal charges lodged by the government against the widow of dictator Ferdinand Marcos. But thousands of political detainees jailed by her late husband also plan to sue. Romeo Capulong, a lawyer for dissidents tortured and jailed under martial law, said they want a share of the Marcos wealth to compensate for their suffering. Justice Secretary Silvestre Bello said he has formed a panel to prepare charges of human rights abuses against the Marcoses. Mr. Chavez said the new criminal cases filed with the Justice Department alleged that Mrs. Marcos and a business associate, Roberto Benedicto, used \$75 million illegally deposited in Swiss banks to buy high-yield central bank treasury notes.

Singapore premier visited S. Africa

SINGAPORE (R) — Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said Friday that a visit he made to South Africa in October was aimed at assessing prospects for business once anti-apartheid sanctions are lifted. "I stopped by to see for myself what the place was like and of course, at the back of my mind was whether we could do business with the South Africans when the sanctions are lifted," Mr. Goh said in a lecture to university students. Mr. Goh was replying to a question about his surprise visit to South Africa after commonwealth heads of government met in neighbouring Zimbabwe. Mr. Goh went to South Africa two days after the Commonwealth lifted consular and visa restrictions, cultural and scientific boycotts and a ban on air travel links in recognition of reforms aimed at giving blacks political rights. The summit also decided to lift trade and financial sanctions in stages as South Africa moves from white-led rule to democracy.

Gunmen kill five in Pakistan

KARACHI (R) — Five people, including three policemen, were killed and eight were wounded when gunmen fired on a roadside tea-house in Pakistan's commercial capital Karachi, police said Friday. The killings happened Thursday night when four gunmen on motorcycles rode up to the tea-house in Baghbari frequented by police and sprayed it with automatic fire. Police said they did not know the motive for the killings or who was responsible. The attack followed a two-day purge of supporters of the opposition Pakistan People's Party (PPP) during which hundreds of activists have been detained across the southern province of Sind. Baghbari is in the parliamentary constituency of Asif Ali Zardari, husband of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto. He has been in jail for more than a year while standing trial on several charges, including plotting the killings of over 20 of the PPP's political foes last year.

Space near-miss worries U.S. officials

HOUSTON (R) — A near-miss between the U.S. manned shuttle Atlantis and an old Soviet rocket has prompted U.S. space chiefs to look for new ways of averting catastrophic collisions caused by man-made junk in space.

"There is a concern and we are looking at upgrading our ability to track space debris," Steve Nesbitt, spokesman for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), said Friday.

The Atlantis had to make an emergency swerve on Thursday to avoid colliding with the remains of Cosmos 851, a Soviet booster rocket believed to have been launched in 1976.

The U.S. space command in Colorado Springs, Colorado, which operates the space surveillance network, flashed a warning to the Johnson Space Centre in Houston that a near-collision would occur within 11 hours.

The warning said the rocket would be about 1.5 miles (24 kilometres) above the Atlantis at its closest approach.

"Given the uncertainty of tracking abilities... I took the conservative approach and made the decision (to swerve)," fleet Director Phil Engelauf said.

Controllers quickly computed a course change and within an hour, Atlantis's crew was ordered to fire the craft's rocket motors.

With the Atlantis orbiting at nearly 18,000 mph — a collision would have been catastrophic.

"We fired the retrograde rockets for seven seconds, which slowed us (the Atlantis) down and kept us from running towards the object," Mr. Engelauf said.

It was the second straight mission on which a shuttle had to make an unscheduled change of course because of space junk. In September the shuttle Discovery also had to manoeuvre on short notice.

Mr. Engelauf said space debris was of great concern.

"There are all sorts of bolts and nuts, up there that can do us damage," Mr. Engelauf said.

The United States tracks more than 7,000 man-made items orbiting within 1,200 miles (1,900 kilometres) of Earth, the region containing the most-used orbits.

East Timor governor joins doubters of official toll

DILI, East Timor (R) — East Timor's civilian governor and an Indonesian Catholic Church group have questioned the official version of the army shooting on Nov. 12, which sparked an international outcry.

The government says only 19 people were killed when troops fired on mourners at a cemetery in Dili nearly three weeks ago. But Governor Mario Viegas Carascalao said he was sure that figure would change.

"I am sure it will... I have a feeling that I saw a number of corpses in a truck but I don't have any experience in counting bodies," he told reporters Thursday night.

Some reports have put the death toll as high as 80.

The Indonesian Bishops' Conference, which recently returned from the predominantly Roman Catholic territory, said Friday accounts from witnesses it met were very different from the official story.

"Many people questioned why the army killed so many people. It happened at the gate of Santa Cruz Cemetery, which was far away from the place where the two soldiers were stabbed. If that was for defence were that many 'victims necessary'?" the group said in a statement.

It also suggested that troops had planted weapons on youths who had hidden in a church after earlier riots in Dili.

While the army says its troops shot to defend themselves from a dangerous mob after an officer was stabbed, several witnesses said troops launched an unprovoked attack and fired into the crowd for several minutes.

Jakarta has sent an investigation commission headed by Supreme Court Judge Djelani to the former Portuguese colony it annexed in 1976. On Friday the judge met East Timor Bishop Carlos Belo.

"The bishop has given us information which is useful for the commission. That is all I can say. You all know that I cannot divulge the details," Judge Djelani told reporters as he left Bishop Belo's residency.

Opponents of Indonesia's rule of East Timor have said they will boycott the enquiry. Diplomats say many Timorese may be too frightened to speak out despite assurances by the local military commander of no victimisation.

"It is the same as asking Pol Pot to investigate human rights abuse by the Khmer Rouge," said the Lisbon-based spokesman for a broad opposition alliance of rebel guerrillas and clandestine

civilian groups.

"There is a climate of terror in the capita Dili. No one is going to speak to these investigators and we are going to boycott them," he told Reuters.

Indonesia invaded East Timor after Portugal withdrew its colonial administration, leaving the territory of 750,000 people in the hands of the leftist and pro-independence Fretilin Movement. The United Nations does not recognise Jakarta's annexation.

Indonesia has rebuffed calls for an international investigation and insists its seven-man commission will be fair and objective.

The 89 said to be the total number wounded in the shooting are still in hospital after nearly three weeks. Local sources say other wounded are too afraid to seek medical help.

Meanwhile, the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) said Friday it would encourage Australian tourists to boycott Indonesia to protest against recent killings in East Timor.

ACTU, the umbrella body of Australia's labour movement, rejected calls by some unions to launch a full scale campaign of industrial action against Indonesian interests.

But it said sanctions might be imposed if an Indonesian inquiry into the killings proved unsatisfactory.

The Australian government has said it believed 75 people were killed when Indonesian soldiers opened fire.

About 179,000 Australian tourists visited Indonesia in 1990 — about 85 per cent going to the resort island of Bali.

ACTU said it would call on members to actively support a day of mourning across Australia on Dec. 7, anniversary of Indonesia's annexation of East Timor in 1976.

"On that day, as a mark of solidarity, no ships or planes flying the Indonesian flag will be serviced," it said in a statement.

Unions in the state of Victoria have pushed for national bans against Indonesia's national airline, Garuda, and other Indonesian interests in Australia.

ACTU said it would further review trade sanctions after an assessment of the Indonesian inquiry, an investigation by the United Nations and a visit to Indonesia by Foreign Minister Gareth Evans.

"In this context, the ACTU is prepared to consider putting in place in the future a co-ordinated range of national bans..." it said.

